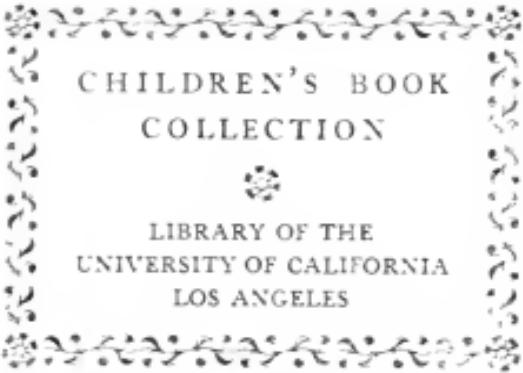


Bartholomew Hopkinson
presented by his Grandfather




CHILDREN'S BOOK
COLLECTION

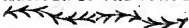


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A
T O K E N
F O R
C H I L D R E N,
B E I N G

An exact Account of the Conversion, holy and exemplary Lives and joyful Deaths, of several YOUNG CHILDREN.


BY JAMES JANEWAY,
MINISTER OF THE GOSPEL.

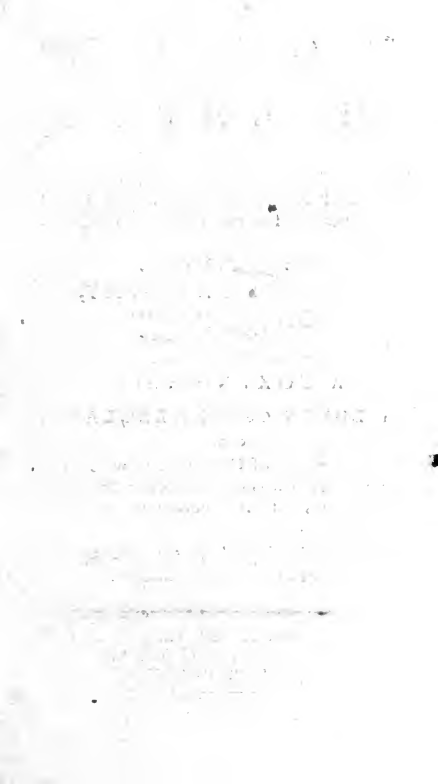

TO WHICH IS ADDED,
A TOKEN FOR THE
CHILDREN OF NEWENGLAND.

O R,
Some Examples of Children, in whom the fear of God was remarkably budding before they died ; in several parts of New-england.

Preserved and published for the encouragement of PIETY in other Children.

PRINTED at WORCESTER, MASSACHUSETTS,
FOR I. THOMAS,
BY JAMES R. HUTCHINS.

1795.





TO all PARENTS, SCHOOLMASTERS and SCHOOL-
MISTRESSES, or any who have any hand in the
Education of youth.

DEAR FRIENDS,

I Have often thought that Christ speaks to
you, as Pharaoh's daughter did to Moses's
mother, Take this child and nurse it for me. O,
first, consider, what a precious jewel is commit-
ted to your charge, what an advantage you
have to shew your love to Christ, to stock the
generation with noble plants, and what a joy-
ful account you may make if you be faithful :
Remember souls, Christ and grace cannot be
overvalued. I confess you have some disadvan-
tages, but let that only excite your diligence :
the salvation of souls, the commendation of your
master, the greatness of your reward and ever-
lasting glory, will pay for all. Remember the
devil is at work hard, wicked ones are industri-
ous, and corrupt nature is a rugged knotty
piece to hew. But be not discouraged, I am
almost as much afraid of your laziness and
unfaithfulness as any thing. Do but fall to
work lustily, and who knows but that rough
stone may prove a Pillar in the Temple of God ?
In the name of the living GOD, as you will
answer it shortly at his Bar, I command you
to be faithful in instructing and catechising
your young ones. If you think I am too pe-
remptory, I pray read the command from my
master

master himself, Deut. 6. 7. Is not the duty clear? and dare you neglect so direct a command? are the souls of your children of no value? are you willing that they should be brands of hell? are you indifferent whether they be damned or saved? Shall the devil run away with them without control? Will not you use your utmost endeavors to deliver them from the wrath to come?—You see that they are not subjects incapable of the grace of God. Whatever you think of them, Christ doth not slight them; They are not too little to die; they are not too little to go to hell; they are not too little to serve their great master; too little to go to heaven; for of such is the kingdom of God: And will not a possibility of their conversion and salvation, put you upon the greatest diligence to teach them? Or are Christ and heaven, and salvation, small things with you? If they be, then indeed I have done with you—but if they be not, I beseech you lay about you with all your might: The devil knows your time is going apace, it will shortly be too late. O therefore what you do, do quickly, and do it, I say, with all your might: O pray, pray, pray, and live holily before them, and take some time daily to speak a little to your children one by one, about their miserable condition by nature. I knew a child that was converted by this sentence from a godly school mistress in the country; Every mother's child of you are by nature children of wrath. Put your chil-

dren upon learning their catechism, and the scriptures, and getting to pray and weep by themselves after Christ : Take heed of their company : take heed of pardoning a lie : Take heed of letting them mispend the Sabbath. Put them, I beseech you, upon imitating those sweet children ; let them read this book over a hundred times, and observe how they are affected, and ask them what they think of those children, and whether they would not be such ? And follow what you do with earnest cries to God, and be in travail to see Christ formed in their souls. I have prayed for you, I have oft prayed for your children, and I love them dearly ; and I have prayed over these papers ; that God would strike in with them, and make them effectual to the good of their souls. Encourage your children to read this book, and lead them to improve it. What is presented, is faithfully taken from experienced solid christians, some of them no way related to the children, who themselves were eye and ear witnesses of God's works of wonder, or from my own knowledge, or from reverend godly Ministers, and from persons that are of unspotted reputation for holiness, integrity and wisdom ; and several passages are taken verbatim in writing from their dying lips. I may add many other excellent examples, if I have encouragement in this piece.— That the young generation may be far more excellent than this, is the prayer of one that dearly loves little children.

J. JANEWAY.



EXAMPLE I.

Of ONE eminently converted between eight and nine Years old, with an Account of her LIFE and DEATH.



R S *Sarah Howley—*

when she was between eight and nine years old, was carried by her friends to hear a sermon, where

the minister preached upon Mat.

11. 31—My yoke is easy and my

burden is light : In the applying

of which scripture, this child was

highly awakened, and made deeply

sensible of the condition of her

soul, and her need of a CHRIST :

she wept bitterly to think what a

case she was in ; and went home,

and got by herself into a chamber ;

and upon her knees she wept and

cried to the Lord, as well as she could, which might easily be perceived by her eyes and countenance.

2. She was not contented with this, but she got her little brother and sister into a chamber with her, and told them of their condition by nature, and wept over them, and prayed with them and for them.

3. After this she heard another sermon from Prov. 29. 1. "He that being often reprov'd, hardeneth his heart, shall suddenly be destroyed; and that without remedy." At which she was more affected than before, & was so exceeding solicitous about her soul, that she spent a great part of the night in weeping and praying, and could scarce take any rest day and night for some time together; desiring with all her soul to escape from everlasting flame, and to get an interest

interest in the Lord Jesus ; O what should she do for a Christ ! What should she do to be saved !

4. She gave herself much to attending upon the word preached, and still continued very tender under it, greatly favouring what she heard.

5. She was very much in secret prayer, as might be easily perceived by those who listened at the chamber door, and usually very importunate and full of tears.

6. She could scarce speak of sin, or be spoken to, but her heart was ready to melt.

7. She spent much time in reading the scripture, and a book called, "the best friend in the worst of times ;" by which the work of God was much promoted upon her soul, and was much directed by it how to get acquainted with God, especially towards the end of that book. Another be-
life

she was much delighted with was Mr. Swinnock's Christian Man's Calling, and by this she was taught in this measure to make religion her business. The Spiritual Bee was a great companion of hers.

8. She was exceeding dutiful to her parents, very loth to grieve them in the least ; and if she had at any time (which was very rare) offended them, she would weep bitterly.

She abhorred lying, and allowed herself in no known sin.

She was very conscientious in spending of time, and hated idleness, and spent her whole time either in praying, reading, or instructing at her needle, at which she was very ingenious.

When she was at school, she was eminent for her diligence, teachableness, meekness and modesty, speaking little ; but when she did speak, it was usually spiritual.

12. She continued in this course of religious duties for some years together.

13. When she was about fourteen years old, she broke a vein in her lungs (as is supposed) and oft did spit blood, yet did a little recover again, but had several dangerous relapses.

14. At the beginning of January last, she was taken very bad again, in which sickness, she was in great distress of soul. When she was first taken, she said, O mother, pray, pray, pray for me, for Satan is so busy that I cannot pray for myself; I see I am undone without a Christ, and a pardon! O I am undone to all eternity.

15. Her mother knowing how serious she had been formerly, did a little wonder that she should be in such agonies: Upon which her mother asked her, what

what Sin it was, that was so burdensome to her Spirit : O mother, said she, it is not any particular Sin of omission or commission, that sticks so close to my conscience, as the Sin of my nature ; without the blood of Christ, that will damn me.

16. Her mother asked her, who she should pray for ; for her, she answered, that I may have a saving knowledge of sin and Christ, and that I may have an assurance of God's love to my soul. Her mother asked her, why she did speak so little to the minister that came to her ? she answered, that it was her duty with patience and silence to learn of them : And it was exceeding painful to her, to speak to any.

17. One time when she fell into a fit, she cried out, O I am going : But what shall I do to be saved ? sweet Lord Jesus, I will
lie

lie at thy feet ; and if I perish, it shall be at the fountain of thy mercy.

18. She was much afraid of presumption, and dreaded a mistake in the matters of her soul, and would be often putting up ejaculations to God, to deliver her from deceiving herself. To instance in one : Great and mighty God, give me faith and true faith : Lord, that I may not be a foolish virgin, having a lamp and no oil.

19. She would many times be laying hold upon the promises, and plead them in prayer. That in *Mat.* 11. 28, 29, was much on her tongue, and no small relief to her spirit. How many times would she cry out, Lord hast thou not said, Come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest ?

20. Another time her father bid her be of good cheer, because she was going to a better father: At which she fell into a great passion, and said, But how do I know that? I am a poor sinner that wants assurance. O, for assurance! It continued to be her note. This was her great, earnest and constant request, to all that came to her, to beg assurance for her: And poor heart, she would look with so much eagerness upon them, as if she desired nothing in the world so much, as that they would pity her, and help her with their prayers; never was poor creature more earnest for any thing, than she was for assurance, and the light of God's countenance: O the piteous moans that she would make! O the agonies that her soul was in!

21. Her mother asked her, If God would spare her life, how she
 B would

would live? truly mother, said she, We have such base hearts that I cannot tell. We are apt to promise great things when we are sick, but when we are recovered, we are ready to forget ourselves, and to return again unto folly: but I hope I shall be more careful of my time and my soul than I have been.

22. She was full of natural affection to her parents, and very careful lest her mother, should be tired out with much watching. Her mother said, How shall I bear parting with thee, when I have scarce dried my eyes for thy brother? she answered, The God of love, support and comfort you: It is but a little while and we shall meet, I hope, in glory. She being very weak, could speak but little, therefore her mother said, Child, if thou hast any comfort lift up thine hand; which she did.

23. The Lord's day before that on which she died, a kinsman of her's came to see her, and asking of her, whether she knew him? she replied, Yea, I know you ; and I desire you would learn to know Christ, you are young, but you know not how soon you may die : and O, to die without a Christ, it is a fearful thing : O redeem time ! O time, time, time precious it me" ! Being requested, by him not to spend her self, she said she would do all the good she could while she lived, and when she was dead too, as possible : upon which account, she desired a sermon might be preached at her funeral concerning the preciousness of time. O that young ones would now remember their Creator !

24. Some ministers that came to her, did with earnestness beg that the Lord would please to give her

her some token for good, that she might go off triumphing; and bills of the same nature were sent to several churches.

25. After she had long waited for an answer of their prayers, she said, well, I will venture my soul upon Christ.

26. She carried it with wonderful patience, and yet would often pray that the Lord would give her more patience; which she answered to astonishment; for considering the pain and agonies she was in, her patience was next to a wonder; Lord, Lord, give me patience, said she, that I may not dishonor thee.

27. Upon Thursday, after long waiting, great fears, and many prayers, when all her friends thought she had been past speaking, to the astonishment of her friends, she broke forth thus with a very audible voice, and cheerful countenance

countenance ; Lord, thou hast promised, that whosoever cometh unto thee, thou wilt in no wise cast out ; Lord, I come unto thee ; and surely thou wilt in no wise cast me out. O so sweet ! O so glorious is Jesus ! O I have the sweet and glorious Jesus ; he is sweet, he is sweet, he is sweet ! O the admirable love of God in sending Christ ! O free grace to a poor lost creature ! and thus she run on repeating many of these things a hundred times over ; but her friends were so astonished to see her in this divine rapture, and to hear such gracious words and her prayers and desires satisfied, that they could not write a quarter of what she spoke.

28. When her soul was thus ravished with the love of Christ, and her tongue so highly engaged in the magnifying of God ; her father, brethren, & sisters, with

others of the family, were called, to whom she spake particularly, as her strength would allow. She gave her bible as a legacy to one of her brothers, and desired him to use that well for her sake, and added to him, and the rest, O make use of time to get a Christ for your souls ; spend no time in running up and down in playing: O get a Christ for your souls while you are young. Remember now your Creator before you come to a sick bed : Put not off this great work till then, for then you will find it a hard work indeed. I know by experience, the devil will tell you it is time enough ; and ye are young, what need you to be in such haste ? you will have time enough when you are old. But there stands one (meaning her grandmother) that stays behind, and I that am but young, am going before her. O therefore make
your

your calling and election sure, while you are in health. But I am afraid this will be but one night's trouble to your thoughts; but remember, these are the words of your dying sister. O, if you knew how good Christ were! O if you had but one taste of his sweetness, you would rather go to him a thousand times than stay in this wicked world. I would not for ten thousand, and ten thousand worlds part with my interest in Christ. O how happy am I, that I am going to everlasting joys! I would not go back again for twenty thousand worlds; and will you not strive to get an interest in Christ."

29, After this, looking upon one of her father's servants, she said, what shall I do? what shall I do at the great day, when Christ shall say to me, come thou blessed of my father, inherit the kingdom

dom prepared for thee: And shall say to the wicked, Go thou cursed into the lake that burns forever: What a grief for me to think, that I shall see any of my friends that I knew upon earth, turned into that lake that burns forever! O that word, forever, remember that, forever! I speak these words to you, but they are nothing, except God speak to you too: O pray, pray, pray, that God would give you grace! and then she prayed, O Lord, finish thy work upon their souls. It will be my comfort (said she) to see you in glory, but it will be your everlasting happiness.

30. Her grandmother told her she spent herself too much; she said, I care not for that, if I could do any soul good. O with what vehemency did she speak, as if her heart were in every word she spoke.

31. She was full of divine sentences ; almost all her discourse, from the first to the last, in the time of her sickness, was about her soul, Christ's sweetness, and the souls of others ; in a word, like a continued sermon.

32. Upon Friday, after she had such lively discoveries of God's love, she was exceeding desirous to die, and cried out, come Lord Jesus, come quickly, conduct me to thy tabernacle ; I am a poor creature without thee ; but Lord Jesus, my soul longs to go with thee : O when shall it be ! why not now dear Jesus ? come quickly ; but why do I speak thus ? thy time, dear Lord, is the best ; O give me patience !

33. Upon Saturday she spoke very little (being very drowsy) yet now and then dropt these words, How long sweet Jesus ? finish thy work sweet Jesus : come away
 dear

dear sweet Lord Jesus, come quickly : sweet Lord help, come away, now, now, dear Jesus, come quickly : good Lord, give patience to me to wait thy appointed time : Lord Jesus help me, help me ; thus at several times (when out of her sleep) for she was asleep the greatest part of the day.

34. Upon the Lord's day, she scarce spoke any thing : but much desired that bills of thanksgiving might be sent to those who had formerly been praying for her, that they might help her to praise God for that full assurance that he had given her of his love ; and seemed to be much swallowed up with the thoughts of God's free love to her soul. She oft commended her spirit into the Lord's hands ; and the last words she was heard to speak, were these, Lord help, Lord Jesus help ; dear Lord Jesus

Jesus; blessed Jesus. At ten of the clock in the forenoon, she slept sweetly in Jesus, and began an everlasting Sabbath, February 19, 1670.



EXAMPLE II.

Of a Child that was admirably affected with the Things of GOD, when he was between two and three years old, with a brief account of his Life and Death.

1. **A** CERTAIN little child, whose mother had dedicated him to the Lord in her womb, when he could not speak plain, would be crying after God, and was greatly desirous to be taught good things.

2. He could not endure to be put to bed without family duty, and would with much devotion, kneel down, and with great patience

tience and delight, continue till duty was at an end, without the least expression of being weary; and he seemed never so well pleased as when he was engaged in duty.

3. He could not be satisfied with family duty, but he would be often upon his knees by himself in one corner or other.

4. He was much delighted in hearing the word of God, either read or preached.

5. He loved to go to school, that he might learn something of God, and would observe and take great notice of what he had read, and come home and speak of it with much affection: and he would rejoice in his book, and say to his mother, O mother! I have had a sweet lesson to day, will you please to give me leave to fetch my book that you may hear it?

6. As he grew up, he was more and more affected with the things of another world ; so that if we had not received our information from one that is of undoubted fidelity, it would seem incredible.

7. He quick learned to read the scripture, and with great reverence, tenderness and groans, read till tears and sobs were ready to hinder him.

8. When he was at prayer, he would weep bitterly.

9. He was wont oftentimes to complain of the naughtiness of his heart, and seemed to be more grieved for the corruption of his nature, than for actual sin.

10. He had a vast understanding in the things of God, even next to a wonder, for one of his age.

11. He was much troubled for the wandering of his thoughts in
C duty,

duty, and that he could not keep his heart always fixed upon God, and the work he was about, and his affections constantly raised.

12. He kept a watch over his heart, and observed the workings of his soul, and would complain that they were so vain and foolish, and so little busied about spiritual things.

13. As he grew up, he grew daily in knowledge and experience, and his carriage was so excellent and experimental, that it made those which saw it, ever astonished.

14. He was exceeding importunate with God at duty; and would plead with God at a strange rate, and use such arguments in prayer, that one would think it impossible should enter into the heart of a child and he would beg and expostulate, and weep so, that sometimes it could not be kept

kept from the ears of the neighbours ; so that one of the next house was forced to cry out, the prayers and tears of that child in the next house will sink me to hell because by it he did condemn his neglect of prayer, and his slight performance of it.

15. He was very fearful of wicked company, and would often beg of God to keep him from it, and that he might never be pleased in them that took delight in displeasing of God: and when he was at any time in the hearing of their wicked words, taking the Lord's name in vain or swearing, or any filthy words, it would even make him tremble, and ready to go home and weep.

16. He abhorred lying with his soul.

17. When he had committed any sin, he was easily convinced of it, and would get in some corner

ner and secret place, and with tears beg pardon of God, and strength against such a sin. He had a friend that oft watched him, and listened at the chamber door, from whom I received this narrative.

18. When he had been asked, whether he would commit such a sin again, he would never promise absolutely, because he said his heart was naughty; but he would weep and say he hoped by the grace of God he should not.

19. When he was left at home alone upon the sabbath days, he would be sure not to spend any part of the day in idleness and play, but be busied in praying, reading in the bible, and getting of his catechism.

20. When other children were playing, he would many a time and oft be a praying.

21. One day a certain person was discoursing with him, about the nature, offices and excellency of Christ, and that he alone can satisfy for our sins, and merit everlasting life for us ; and about other of the great mysteries of redemption ; he seemed savingly to understand them, and greatly delighted with the discourse.

22. One speaking concerning the resurrection of the body, he did acknowledge it ; but that the same weak body that was buried in the church yard should be raised again, he thought very strange, but with admiration yielded, that nothing was impossible with God ; and that very day he was taken sick unto death.

23. A friend of his asked him, whether he was willing to die, when he was first taken sick ; he answered no ; because he was afraid of his state as to another
C 2 world

world: why, child said the other, thou didst pray for a new heart, for a humble, and sincere heart, and I have heard thee; didst thou not pray with thine heart? I hope I did, said he.

24. Not long after, the same person asked him again, whether he were willing to die? he answered, now I am willing, for I shall go to Christ.

25. One asked him what would become of his sister, if he should die and leave her? he answered, the will of the Lord must be done.

26. He still grew weaker and weaker, but carried it with a great deal of sweetness and patience, waiting for his change, and at last did cheerfully commit his spirit unto the Lord; and calling upon the name of the Lord, and saying, Lord Jesus, Lord Jesus, in whose bosom he sweetly slept,

Hept, dying as I remember, when he was about five or six years old.



EXAMPLE III.

Of a little girl that was wrought upon, when she was between four and five years old, with some account of her holy life, and triumphant death.

MARY A. when she was between four and five years old, was greatly affected in hearing the word of God, and became very solicitous about her soul, and everlasting condition, weeping bitterly to think what would become of her in another world, asking strange questions concerning God and Christ, and her own soul, so that this little Mary, before she was full five years old, seemed

seemed to mind the one thing needful, and to chuse the better part, and sat at the feet of Christ many a time, and oft with tears.

2. She was wont to be much in secret duty, and many times came off from her knees with tears.

3. She would chuse such times and places for secret duty, as might render her less observed by others, and did endeavour what possible she could to conceal what she was doing when engaged in secret duty.

4. She was greatly afraid of hypocrisy, and of doing any thing to be seen of men, and to get commendation and praise; and when she had heard one of her brothers saying, that he had been by himself at prayer, she rebuked him sharply, and told him, how little such prayers were like to profit him, and that it was but
little

little to his praise, to pray like a hypocrite, and to be glad that any should know what he had been doing.

5. Her mother being full of sorrow after the death of her husband, this child came to her mother, and asked her, why she wept so exceedingly? her mother answered, she had cause enough to weep, because her father was dead: no, dear mother, said the child, you have no cause to weep so much; for God is a good God still to you.

6. She was a dear lover of faithful ministers. One time after she had been hearing of Mr. Whitaker, she said, I love that man dearly, for the sweet words that he speaks concerning Christ.

7. Her book was her delight, and what she did read, she loved to make her own, and cared not
for

for passing over what she learned, without extraordinary observation and understanding ; and many times she was so strangely affected in reading of the scriptures, that she would burst out with tears, and hardly be pacified,—so greatly was she taken with Christ's sufferings, the zeal of God's servants, and the danger of a natural state.

8. She would complain oftentimes of the corruption of her nature, of the hardness of her heart, that she could repent no more thoroughly and be no more humble and grieved for her sins against a good God ; and when she did thus complain, it was with abundance of tears.

9. She was greatly concerned for the souls of others, and grieved to think of the miserable condition that they were in upon this account ! When she could handsomely,

somely, she would be putting in some pretty sweet word of Christ ; but above all, she would do what she could to draw the heart of her brethren and sisters after Christ : and there was no small hopes, that her example and good counsel did prevail with some of them when they were very young, to get into corners to pray, and to ask very gracious questions about the things of God.

10. She was very conscientious in keeping the Sabbath, spending the whole time either in reading or praying, or learning her catechism, or in teaching her brethren and sisters. One time when she was left at home upon the Lord's day, she got some other little children together, with her brothers and sisters, and instead of playing (as other naughty children use to do) she told them, that was the Lord's day, and that they ought

ought to remember that day to keep it holy : And then she told them, how it was to be spent in religious exercise all the day long, except so much as was to be taken up in the works of necessity and mercy ; then she prayed with them herself, and among other things begged, that the Lord would give grace, and wisdom to them little children, that they might know how to serve him ; as one of the little ones in the company with her, told afterwards.

II. She was a child of a strange tenderness and compassion to all, full of bowels and pity : Whom she could not help, she would weep over ; especially if she saw her mother at any time troubled, she would quickly make her sorrows her own, and weep for her and with her.

12. When her mother had been somewhat solicitous about any worldly thing, she would try to put her off from her care one way or other. One time she told her, O mother, grace is better than that, (meaning something her mother wanted,) I had rather have grace and the love of Christ, than any thing in the world.

13. This child was often musing & busied in the thoughts of her everlasting work; witness that strange question, O what are they doing, who are already in heaven? and she seemed to be greatly desirous to be among 'em who were praising, loving, delighting in God, and serving of him without sin. Her language was so strange about spiritual matters, that she made many excellent christians to stand amazed, as judging it scarce to be paralleled.

14. She took great delight in reading of the scripture, and some part of it was more sweet to her
D than

than her appointed food : She would get several choice scriptures by heart, and discourse of them favourly, and apply them suitably.

15. She was not altogether a stranger to other good books, but would be reading of them with much affection : and where she might, she noted the books particularly, observing what in the reading did most warm her heart, and she was ready upon occasion to improve it.

16. One time a woman coming into the house in a great passion, spoke of her condition, as if none were like hers, and it would never be otherwise ; the child said, it were a strange thing to say when it is night, it will never be day again.

17. At another time a near relation of her's, being in some straits, made some complaint ; to whom she said, I have heard Mr. Carter say, a man may go to
heaven

heaven without a penny in his purse, but not without grace in his heart.

18. She had an extraordinary love to the people of God, and when she saw any that she tho't feared the Lord, her heart would even leap for joy.

19. She loved to be much by herself, and would be greatly grieved if she were at any time deprived of a conveniency for secret duty ; she could not live without constant addressees to God in secret ; and was not a little pleased when she could go into a corner to pray and weep.

20. She was much in praising God, and seldom or never complained of any thing but sin.

21. She continued in this course of praying and praising of God, and great dutifulness and sweetness to her parents, and those that taught her any thing, yet she did
greatly

greatly encourage her mother while she was a widow and desired the absence of a husband, might in some measure be made up by the dutifulness and holiness of a child. She studied all the ways she could to make her mother's life sweet.

22. When she was between eleven and twelve years old, she sickened ; in which she carried it with admirable patience and sweetness, and did what she could with scripture arguments, to support and encourage her relations to part with her, who was going to glory, and to prepare themselves to meet her in a blessed eternity.

23. She was not many days sick before she was marked ; which she first saw herself, and was greatly rejoiced to think that she was marked out for the Lord, and was now going apace to Christ. She called to her friends, and said,

I am marked, but be not troubled, for I know I am marked for one of the Lord's own. One asked her, how she knew that ? she answered, the Lord hath told me, that I am one of his dear children. And thus she spake with a holy confidence in the Lord's love to her soul, and was not in the least daunted when she spake of her death ; but seemed greatly delighted in the apprehension of her nearness to her father's house : And it was not long before she was filled with joy unspeakable in believing.

24. When she just lay a dying, her mother came to her, and told her, she was sorry that she had reproved and corrected so good a child so oft. O mother, said she, speak not thus, I bless God, now I am dying, for your reproofs and corrections too ; for it may be, I might have gone to hell, if it had not been for your reproofs and corrections.

25. Some of her neighbours coming to visit her, asked her, If she would leave them ? she answered them, If you serve the Lord, you shall come after me to glory.

26. A little before she died, she had a great conflict with Satan, and cried out, I am none of his. Her mother seeing her in trouble, asked her what was the matter ? she answered, Satan did trouble me, but now I thank God all is well, I know I am not his, but Christ's.

27. After this, she had a great sense of God's love, and a glorious sight, as if she had seen the very heavens opened, and the angels come to receive her ; by which her heart was filled with joy, and her tongue with praise.

28. Being desired by the standers by, to give them a particular account of what she saw : she answered

swered, you shall know hereafter :
and so in an ecstasy of joy and
holy triumph, she went to heaven
when she was about twelve Years
old. *HALLELUJAH.*



EXAMPLE IV.

*Of a child that began to look to-
wards heaven when she was a-
bout four years old, with some ob-
servable passages in her life, and
at her death.*

I. **A** CERTAIN little child,
when she was about four
years old, had a conscientious
sense of her duty towards her pa-
rents, because the commandment
saith, honour thy father and thy
mother. And though she had
little advantage of education, she
carried it with the greatest rever-
ence to her parents imaginable,
so

so that she was no small credit, as well as comfort to them.

2. It was no unusual thing for her to weep, if she saw her parents troubled, though herself had not been the occasion of it.

3. When she came from school, she would with grief and abhorrence say, that other children had sinned against God by speaking grievous words, which were so bad, that she durst not speak them again.

4. She would be oftentimes admiring of God's mercy, for so much goodness to her rather than to others; that she saw some begging, others blind, some crooked, and that she wanted nothing that was good for her.

5. She was many a time, and often, in one hole or another, in tears upon her knees.

6. This poor little thing would be ready to counsel other little children,

children, how they ought to serve God ; and putting them upon getting by themselves to pray ; and hath been known when her friends have been abroad, to have been teaching children to pray, especially upon the Lord's day.

7. She very seriously begged the prayers of others, that they would remember her, that the Lord would give her grace.

8. When this child saw some that were laughing, who she judged to be very wicked ; she told them, she feared they had little reason to be merry. They asked, whether one might not laugh ? she answered ; no indeed, till you have grace ! they who are wicked, have more need to cry than to laugh..

9. She would say, that it was the duty of parents, masters and mistresses, to reprove (those under their charge) for sin, or else God will meet with them. 10.

10. She would be very attentive when she read the scriptures, and be much affected with them.

11. She would by no means be persuaded to profane the Lord's day, but would spend it in some good duties.

12. When she went to school, it was willingly and joyfully; and she was very teachable and exemplary to other children.

13. When she was taken sick, one asked whether she were willing to die? she answered, yes, if God would pardon her sins. Being asked, how her sins should be pardoned? she answered, through the blood of Christ.

14. She said, she did believe in Christ, and desired and longed to be with him; and did with a great deal of cheerfulness give up her soul,

EXAMPLE



E X A M P L E V.

*Of the pious life and joyful death
of a child who died when he was
about twelve years old, 1632.*

1. **C**HARLES Bridgman had no
sooner learnt to speak, but
he betook himself to prayer.

2. He was very prone to learn
the things of God.

3. He would be sometimes
teaching them their duty, that
waited upon him.

4. He learned by heart many
good things, before he was well
fit to go to school: and when he
was sent to school, he carried it so,
that all who observed him, either
did or might admire him. O the
sweet nature, the good disposition
the sincere religion, which was
in this child!

5. When he was at school,
what was it that he desired to
learn, but Christ, and him cru-
cified?

6.

6. So religious and favoury were his words, his actions so upright, his devotion so hearty, his fear of God so great, that many were ready to say as they did of John; what manner of Child shall this be?

7. He would be much in reading the holy scriptures.

8. He was desirous of more spiritual knowledge, and would be often asking very serious and admirable questions.

9. He would not stir out of doors before he had poured out his soul to the Lord.

10. When he ate any thing, he would be sure to lift up his heart unto the Lord for a blessing upon it; and when he had moderately refreshed himself by eating, he would not forget to acknowledge God's goodness in feeding of him,

11. He would not lie down in his bed, till he had been upon his
his

his knees : and when sometimes he had forgotten his duty, he would quickly rise out of his bed, and kneeling down upon his bare knees, covered with no garment but his linnen, ask God forgiveness for that sin.

12. He would rebuke his brethren if they were at any time too hasty at their meals, and did eat without asking a blessing : his check was usually thus ; dare you do thus ? God be merciful to us, this bit of bread might choke us.

13. His sentences were wise and weighty, and well might become some ancient christian.

14. His sickness was a lingering disease, against which to comfort him, one tells him of possessions that must fall to his portion : and what are they, said he, I had rather have the kingdom of heaven, than a thousand such inheritances.

15. When he was sick, he seemed much taken up with heaven, and asked very serious questions about the nature of his soul.

16. After he was pretty well satisfied about that, he inquired how his soul might be saved? the answer being made, by the applying of Christ's merits by faith; he was pleased with the answer, and was ready to give any one that should desire it, an account of his hope.

17. Being asked, whether he had rather live or die? he answered, I desire to die, that I may go to my saviour.

18. His pains encreasing upon him, one asked him, whether he would rather still endure those pains, or forsake Christ? alas, said he, I know not what to say, being but a child; for these pains may stagger a strong man; but I will strive to endure the best that

I can. Upon this he called to mind that martyr Thomas Bilney ; who being in prison, the night before his burning, put his finger into the candle, to know how he could endure the fire. O (said the child) had I lived then, I would have run through the fire to have gone to Christ.

19. His sickness lasted long, and at least three days before his death, he prophesied his departure, and not only that he must die, but the very day. On the Lord's day, said he, look to me ; neither was this a word of course which you may guess by his often repetition, every day asking till the day come ; what, is Sunday come ? at last, the looked for day came indeed, and no sooner had the sun beautified that morning with its light, but he falls into a trance ; his eyes were fixed, his face cheerful, his lips smiling,

ing, his hands and feet clasped in a bow, as if he would have received some blessed angel that were at hand to receive his soul. But he comes to himself and tells them how he saw the sweetest body that ever eyes beheld, who bid him be of good cheer, for he must presently go with him.

20. One that stood near him, as now suspecting the time of his dissolution nigh, bid him say, Lord, into thy hands I commend my spirit, which is thy due ; for why, thou hast redeemed it, O Lord, my God most true.

21. The last words which he spake, were exactly these : pray, pray, pray, nay, yet, pray ; and the more prayers, the better all prosper ; God is the best physician ; into his hands I commend my spirit, O Lord Jesus receive my soul : now close mine eyes : forgive me, father, mother, brother,

er, sister, and all the world. Now I am well, my pain is almost gone, my joy is at hand. Lord have mercy on me. O Lord receive my soul unto thee. And thus he yielded his spirit up unto the Lord when he was about twelve years old.

This narrative was taken out of Mr. Ambrose's Life's Lease.



EXAMPLE VI.

Of a poor child that was awakened when he was about five years old.

I. **A** Certain very poor child that had a very bad father, but it was to be hoped a very good mother, was by the providence of God, brought to the sight of a godly friend of mine, who upon the first sight of the child, had a great pity for him, and took

an affection to him, and had a mind to bring him up for Christ.

2. At the first, he did with great sweetness and kindness allure the child ; by which means it was not long before he got a deep interest in the heart of the Child, and he began to obey him with more readiness than children usually do their parents.

3. By this a door was opened for a farther work, and he had greater advantage to instil spiritual principles into the soul of the child, which he was not wanting in, as the Lord gave opportunity, and the child was capable of.

4. It was not long before the Lord was pleased to strike in with the spiritual exhortations of this good man, so that the child was brought to a liking of the things of God.

5. He quickly learnt a great part of the assembly's catechism
by

by heart, and that before he could read his primer within book ; and he took a great delight in learning his catechism,

6. He was not only able to give a very good account of his catechism, but he would answer such questions, as are not in the catechism, with greater understanding than could be expected of one of his age.

7. He took great delight in discoursing about the things of God; and when my friend had been either praying or reading, expounding or repeating of sermons, he seemed very attentive, and ready to receive the truths of God, and would with incredible gravity, diligence and affection, wait till duties were ended, to the no small joy and admiration of them which observed him.

8. He would ask very excellent questions, and discourse about the condition

condition of his soul and heavenly things, and seemed mightily concerned what should become of his soul when he should die : so that his discourse made some christians even to stand astonished.

9. He was greatly taken with the great kindness of Christ in dying for sinners, and would be in tears at the mention of them : and seemed at a strange rate to be affected with the unspeakable love of Christ.

10. When no body had been speaking to him, he would burst out into tears, and being asked the reason, he would say, that the very thoughts of Christ's love to sinners in suffering for them, made him that he could not but cry.

11. Before he was six years old, he made conscience of secret duty ; and when he prayed, it was with such extraordinary meltings, that
his

his eyes have looked red and fore, with weeping by himself for his sin.

12. He would be putting of christians upon spiritual discourse when he saw them, and seemed little satisfied unless they were talking of good things.

13. It is evident, that this poor child's thoughts were very much busied about the things of another world, for he would oftentimes be speaking to his bed-fellow at midnight about the matter of his soul; and when he could not sleep he would take heavenly conference to be sweeter than his appointed rest. This was his usual custom, and thus he would provoke and put forward an experienced christian, to spend waking hours in talk of God and the everlasting rest.

14. Not long after this, his good mother died, which went ve-

ry near his heart, for he greatly honoured his mother.

15. After the death of his mother, he would often repeat some of his promises that are made to fatherless children, especially that in Exod. 22. 22, ye shall not afflict any widow, or the fatherless child, if thou afflict them in any wise, and they cry at all unto me, I will surely hear their cry.—These words he would often repeat with tears, and say, I am fatherless and motherless upon earth, yet if any wrong me, I have a father in heaven who will take my part; to him I commit myself, and in him is all my trust.

16. Thus he continued in a course of holy duties, living in the fear of God, & shewed wonderful grace for a child, and died sweetly in the faith of Jesus.

My friend, is a judicious christian of many years experience,
who

pity and tenderneſs towards this poor child, ſo that in charity he took him out of the ſtreets, whoſe parents were unknown ; and who had nothing at all to commend him to any one's charity, but his miſery. My friend eyeing the glory of God, and the good of the immortal ſoul of this wretched creature, diſcharged the pariſh of the child, and took him as his own, deſigning to bring him up for the Lord Chriſt. A noble piece of charity ! and that which did make the kindneſs far the greater, was that there ſeemed to be very little hopes of doing any good upon this child, for he was a very monſter of wickedneſs, and a thouſand times more miſerable and vile by his ſin, than by his poverty. He was running to hell as ſoon as he could go, and was old in naughtineſs when he was young in years ; and one ſhall ſcarce hear of a per-
ſon

son so much like the devil in his infancy, as this poor child was. What sin was there (that his age was capable of) that he did not commit? what by the corruption of his nature, & the abominable example of little beggar boys, he was arrived to a strange pitch of impiety. He would call filthy names, take God's name in vain, curse and swear, and do almost all kind of mischief; and as to any thing of God, worse than a heathen.

2. But this sin and misery was but a stronger motive to that gracious man to pity him, and to do all that possibly he could to pluck the firebrand out of the fire; and it was not long before the Lord was pleased to let him understand that he had a design of everlasting kindness upon the soul of this poor child; for no sooner had this good man taken this creature into his house, but he prays for him, and

F labours

labours with all his might to convince him of his miserable condition by nature, and to teach him something of God, the worth of his soul, and that eternity of glory or misery that he was born to: and blessed be free grace, it was not long before the Lord was pleased to let him understand, that it was himself which put it into his heart to take in this child, that he might bring him up for Christ. The Lord soon struck in with his godly instruction, so that an amazing change was seen in the child; in a few weeks time he was convinced of the evil of his ways; no more news now of his calling of names, swearing, or cursing; no more taking of the Lord's name in vain; now he is civil and respectful, and such a strange alteration was wrought in the child, that all the parish that rang of his villany before, was now ready to talk of his reformation

ation ; his company, his talk, his employment is now changed; and he is like another creature; so that the glory of God's free grace began already to shine in him.

3. And this change was not an external one; and to be discerned abroad, but he would get by himself; and weep and mourn bitterly, for his horrible wicked life, as might easily be perceived by them that lived in the house with him.

4. It was the great care of his godly master to strike in with those convictions which the Lord had made, and to improve them all he could ; and he was not a little glad to see his labour was not in vain in the Lord : he still experiences that the Lord doth carry on his own work mightily upon the heart of the child: he is still more & more broken under a sense of his undone state by nature : he is oft in tears, and bemoaning his lost & miserable condition. When his

master did speak of the things of God, he listened earnestly and took in with much greediness and affection what he was taught, seldom was there any discourse about soul matters in his hearing, but he heard it as if it were for his life, and would weep greatly.

5. He would after his master had been speaking to him, or others, of the things of God, go to him, and question with him about them, and beg of him to instruct and teach him farther, and to tell him those things again, that he might remember and understand them better.

6. Thus he continued seeking after the knowledge of God and Christ, and practising holy duties, till the sickness came into the house, with which the child was smitten ; at his first sickening, the poor child was greatly amazed and afraid, and though his
pains

pains were great, and the distemper very tedious, yet the sense of his sin, and the thought of the miserable condition that he feared his soul was still in, made his trouble ten times greater : He was in grievous agonies of spirit, and his former sins stared him in the face, and made him tremble ; the poison of God's arrows did even drink up his spirits ; the sense of sin and wrath was so great, that he could not tell what in the world to do ; the weight of God's displeasure, and the thought of lying under it to all eternity, did even break him to pieces, and he did cry out very bitterly, what should he do ? He was a miserable sinner, and he feared that he should go to hell ; his sins had been so great and many, that there was no hopes for him. He was not by far so much concerned for his life, as for his soul,

what would become of that forever. Now the plague upon his body seemed nothing to that which was in his soul.

7. But in this great distress the Lord was pleased to send one to take care for his soul, who urged to him the great and precious promises which were made to one in his condition; telling him there was enough in Christ for the chiefest of sinners; and that he came to seek and save such a lost creature as he was. But this poor child found it a very difficult thing for him to believe that there was any mercy for such a dreadful sinner as he had been.

8. He was made to cry out of himself, not only for his swearing and lying, and other outwardly notorious sins; but he was in great horror for the sin of his nature, for the vileness of his heart, and original corruption; under it
he

he was in so great anguish, that the trouble of his spirit, made him in a great measure to forget the pains of his body.

9. He did very particularly confess and bewail his sins with tears ; and some sins so secret, that none in the world could charge him with them.

10. He would condemn himself for sin, as deserving no mercy ; and thought that there was not a greater sinner in all London than himself, and he abhorred himself as the vilest creature he knew.

11. He did not only pray much with strong cries and tears himself, but he begged the prayers of christians for him.

12. He would ask christians, whether they thought there were any hopes for him, and would beg of them to deal plainly with him, for he was greatly afraid of being deceived.

13. Being informed how willing the Lord Christ was to accept of poor sinners, upon their repentance and turning; and being counselled to venture himself upon Christ for mercy and salvation, he said, he would fain cast himself upon Christ, but he could not but wonder, how Christ should be willing to die for such a vile wretch as he was; and that he found it one of the hardest things in the world to believe.

14. But at last it pleased the Lord to give him some small hopes that there might be mercy for him, for he had been the chiefest of sinners; and was made to lay a little hold upon such promises, as that, come unto me, all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest. But O! how did this poor boy admire and bless God for the least hopes! How highly did he prize such free
and

and rich grace, that should pity and pardon him ! and at last he was full of praise, and admiring of God ; so that (to speak in the words of a precious man, who was an eye and ear witness) to the praise and glory of God, be it spoken, the house at that day, for all the sickness in it, was a little lower heaven, so full of joy and praise.

15. The child grew exceedingly in knowledge, experience, patience, humility and self abhorrency ; and he thought he could never speak bad enough of himself, the name that he would call himself by, was a toad.

16. And though he prayed before, yet now the Lord poured out upon him the spirit of prayer, in an extraordinary manner for one of his age ; so that now he prayed more frequently, more earnestly, more spiritually than ever

ever. O how eagerly would he beg to be washed in the blood of Jesus ! and that the King of kings, and Lord of lords, that was over heaven and earth, and sea, would pardon and forgive him all his sins, and receive his soul into his kingdom. And what he spoke, it was with so much life and fervor of spirit, as that it filled the hearers with astonishment and joy.

17. He had a small sense of the use and excellency of Christ, and such longings and breathings of his soul after him, that when mention hath been made of Christ, he hath been ready almost to leap out of his bed for joy.

18. When he was told, that if he should recover, he must not live as he list ; but he must give up himself to Christ, and to be his child and servant, to bear his yoke and be obedient to his laws,
and

and live a holy life, and take his cross, and suffer mocking and reproach, it may be, persecution for his name's sake. Now, child, (said one to him) are you willing to have Christ upon such terms? He signified his willingness by the earnestness of his looks and words, and the casting up of his eyes to heaven, saying, yes with all my soul, the Lord helping me, I will do this.

19. Yet he had many doubts and fears, and was ever and anon harping upon that, that though he were willing, yet Christ he feared was not willing to accept him, because of the greatness of his sins; yet his hopes were greater than his fears.

20. The Wednesday before he died, the child lay as it were in a trance for about half an hour, in which time he thought he saw a vision of angels: when he was
out

out of his trance, he was in a little pet, and asked his nurse, why she did not let him go? go, whither child, said she : why along with those brave gentleman (said he) but they told me they would come and fetch me for all of you upon Friday next. And he doubled his words many times, upon Friday next, those brave gentlemen will come for me; and upon that day, the child died joyfully.

21. He was very thankful to his master, and very sensible of his great kindness in taking him out of the streets, when he was a begging : and he admired at the goodness of God, which put it into the mind of a stranger to look upon, and to take such a fatherly care of such a pitiful sorry creature as he was. O my dear master, (said he) and servant of God, I hope to see you in heaven, for I am sure you will go thither. O blessed,

bleſſed, bleſſed, be God, that made you to take pity upon me, for I might have died, and have gone to the devil, and have been damned forever, if it had not been for you.

22. The Thursday before he died, he asked a very godly friend of mine, what he thought of his condition, and whither his ſoul was now going ? for he ſaid, he could not ſtill but fear, leaſt he ſhould deceive himſelf with falſe hopes. At which my friend ſpoke to him thus, child, for all that I have endeavoured to hold forth the grace of God in Chriſt to thy ſoul, and given you a warrant from the word of God, that Chriſt is as freely offered to you, as to any ſinner in the world ; if thou art but willing to accept of him, thou mayeſt have Chriſt, and all that thou doſt want with him ; and

yet

yet thou dost give way to these thy doubtings and fears, as though I told you nothing but lies. Thou sayest, thou fearest that Christ will not accept of thee; I fear thou art not heartily willing to accept of him. The child answered, indeed I am: why then, child, if thou art unfeignedly willing to have Christ, I tell thee he is a thousand times more willing to have thee, and wash thee, and save thee, than thou art to desire it. And now at this time Christ offers himself freely to thee again; therefore receive him humbly by faith into thy heart, and bid him welcome, for he deserveth it. Upon which words the Lord discovered his love to Christ, and he gave a kind of a leap in his bed, and snapt his fingers and thumbs together with abundance of joy, as much as to say, well, vea all is well, the match is made, Christ is willing,

willing, and I am willing too; and now Christ is mine, and I am his forever. And from that time forward, in full joy and assurance of God's love, he continued earnestly praising God, with desiring to die, and be with Christ. And on Friday morning he sweetly went to rest, using that very expression, into thy hands, Lord, I commit my spirit. He died punctually at that time which he had spoke of, and in which he expected those angels to come to him; he was not much above nine years old when he died.

This narrative I had from a judicious holy man, who was an eye and ear witness to all these things.

EXAMPLE



E X A M P L E VIII

Of a child that was very serious at four years old, with an account of his comfortable death, when he was twelve years and three weeks old.

John Sudlow, was born of religious parents, in the county of Middlesex, whose great care was to instil spiritual principles into him, as soon as he was capable of understanding of them ; whose endeavours the Lord was pleased to crown with the desired success ; so that (to use the expression of a holy man concerning him) scarce more could be expected or desired from so little a one.

2. When he was scarce able to speak plain, he seemed to have a
very

very great awe and reverence of God upon his spirit, and a strange sense of the things of another world, as might easily be perceived by those serious and admirable questions which he would be oft asking of those christians that he thought he might be bold with.

3. The first thing that did most affect him, and made him endeavour to escape from the wrath to come, and to enquire what he should do to be saved, was the death of a little brother ; when he saw him without breath, and not able to speak or stir, and then carried out of doors, and put into a pit hole, he was greatly concerned, and asked notable questions about him ; but that which was most affecting of himself and others, was, whether he must die too ? which being answered, it made such a deep impression up-

on him, that from that time forward, he was exceeding serious, and this was when he was about four years old.

4. Now he is desirous to know what he might do that he might live in another world, and what he must avoid, that he might not die for ever, and being instructed by his godly parents, he soon labours to avoid whatsoever might displease God ; now tell him that any thing was sinful, and that God would not have him to do it, and he is easily kept from it, and even at this time of day, the apprehensions of God and death and eternity laid such a restraint upon him, that he would not for a world have told a lie.

5. He quickly learned to read exactly, and took such pleasure in reading of the scriptures and his catechism, and other good books, that it is scarce to be paralleled ;
he

he would naturally run to his book without bidding, when he came home from school, and when other children of his age and acquaintance were playing, he reckoned it his recreation to be doing good,

6. When he was in coats, he would be still asking his maid serious questions, and praying her to teach him his catechism, or scripture, or some good thing; common discourse he took no delight in, but did most eagerly desire to be sucking in of the knowledge of the things of God, Christ, his soul, and another world.

7. He was hugely taken with the reading of the book of martyrs, and would be ready to leave his dinner to go to his book.

8. He was exceeding careful of redeeming and improving of time; scarce a moment of it, but he would give an excellent account
of

of the expence of it ; so that this child might have taught elder persons, and will questionless condemn their idle and unaccountable wasting of those precious hours in which they should (as this sweet child) have been laying in provision for eternity.

9. He could not endure to read any thing over slightly, but whatsoever he read, he dwelt upon it, laboured to understand it thoroughly, and remember it, and what he could not understand, he would oft ask his father or mother the meaning of it.

10. When any christian friends have been discoursing with his father, if they began to talk any thing about religion, to be sure they should have his company, and of his own accord, he would leave all to hear any thing of Christ; and creep as close to them as he could, and listen as affectionately,

ately, though it were for an hour or two : He was scarce ever known to express the least token of weariness while he was handling any thing that was good, and sometimes, when neighbours children would come and call him out, and entice him, and beg of him to go with them, he could by no means be persuaded, (tho' he might have had the leave of his parents) if he had any hopes that any good boys would come into his father's house.

11. He was very modest while any stranger was present, and was loth to ask them any questions ; but as soon as they were gone, he would let his father know that there was little said or done, but he observed it, and would reflect upon what was past in their discourse, and desire satisfaction in what he could not understand at present.

12. He was a boy of most prodigious parts for his age, as will appear from his solid and rational questions ; I shall mention but two of many.

13. The first was this, when he was reading by himself, in Draiton's poems about Noah's flood and the ark ? It being answered, that it was likely that Noah hired men to help him build it : and would they (said he) build an ark to save another, and not go into it themselves ?

14. Another question he put was this : which had a greater glory, saints or angels ? It being answered, that angels were the most excellent of creatures, and it is to be thought, their nature is made capable of greater glory than man's. He said, he was of another mind, and his reason was, because angels were servants, and saints are children ; and that Christ
never

never took upon him the nature of faints, and by his being man, he hath advanced human nature above the nature of angels.

15. By this you may perceive the greatness of his parts, and the bent of his thoughts; and thus he continued for several years together, labouring to get more and more spiritual knowledge, and to prepare for an endless life.

16. He was a child of an excellent sweet temper, wonderfully dutiful to his parents, ready and joyful to do what he was bid, and by no means would do any thing to displease them, and if they were at any time seemingly angry, he would not stir from them, till they were thought reconciled to him.

17. He was not only good himself, but would do what he could to make others so too, especially those that were nearest to him;
he

he was very watchful over his brethren and sisters, and would not suffer them to use any unhandsome action, but he would be putting them upon that which was good ; and when he did at any time rebuke them, it was not childishly and slightly, but with great gravity, and seriousness, as one that was not a little concerned for God's honour, and the eternal welfare of their souls.

18. He would go to his father and mother with great tenderness and compassion, (being far from telling of tales) and beg of them, to take more care of the souls of his brethren and sisters ; and to take heed, lest they should go on in a sinful Christless state, and prove their sorrow and shame, and go to hell when they die, and be ruined forever.

29. He was exceedingly affected with hearing of the word of
God

God preached, and could not be satisfied, except he could carry home much of the substance of what he heard; to this end he quickly got to learn short hand, and would give a very pretty account of any sermon that he heard.

20. He was much engaged in secret duty, and in reading the scripture; to before morning and evening he would be by himself, and was, no question, wrestling with God.

21. He would get choice scriptures by heart, and was very perfect at his catechism.

22. The providence of God were not passed by, without considerable observation by him.

23. In the time of the plague, he was exceedingly concerned about his soul and everlasting state; and much by himself upon his knees. This prayer was found written in short hand after his death.

H

O Lord

O Lord God and merciful father take pity upon me a miserable sinner, and strengthen me, O Lord, keep me from this poisonous infection; however, not my will but thy will be done, O Lord, on earth, as it is in heaven; but, O Lord, if thou hast appointed me to die by it, O Lord, fit me for death, & give me a good heart to bear up under my afflictions: O Lord God and merciful father take pity on me thy child; teach me O Lord thy word, make me strong in faith. O Lord, I have sinned against thee; Lord pardon my sins. I had been in hell long ago if it had not been for thy mercy: O Lord, I pray thee to keep my parents in thy truth, and save them from this infection, if it be thy will, that they may live to bring me up in thy truth: O Lord, I pray thee stay this infection that rageth in this city, and pardon their sins, and try them once more, and see if they

they will turn unto thee. Save me, O Lord, from this infection, that I may live to praise and glorify thy name ; but, O Lord, if thou hast appointed me to die of it, fit me for death, that I may die with comfort ; and, O Lord, I pray thee to help me to bear up under all afflictions ; for Christ's sake. Amen.

24. He was not a little concerned for the whole nation, and begged that God would pardon the sins of the land, and bring it nearer to himself.

25. About the beginning of November 1665, this sweet child was smote with the distemper, but he carried it with admirable patience under the hand of God.

26. 'These are some of his dying expressions—the Lord shall be my physician, for he will cure both soul and body. Heaven is the best hospital : It is the Lord, let him do what seemeth good in his

his eyes. Again, it is the Lord that taketh away my health; but I will say as Job said, blessed be the name of the Lord. If I should live longer, I shall but sin against God. Looking upon his father, he said, if the Lord would but lend me the least finger of his hand, to lead me through the dark entry of death, I will rejoice in him.

27. When a minister came to him, among other things, he spake somewhat of life. He said, this is a wicked world, yet it is good to live with my parents, but it is better to live in heaven.

28. An hour and a half before his death, the same minister came again to visit him, and asked him, John, art thou afraid to die? He answered, no, if the Lord will but comfort me in that hour. But said the minister, how canst thou expect comfort, seeing we deserve

serve none ? He answered, no, if I had my deserts, I had been in hell long ago. But, replied the minister, which way dost thou expect comfort and salvation, seeing thou art a sinner, he answered, in Christ alone. In whom about an hour and an half after, he fell asleep, saying, he would take a long sleep, charging them that were about him not to wake him.

He died when he was twelve years, three weeks, and one day old.



E X A M P L E IX.

Of a child that was very eminent when she was between five and six years old, with some memorable passages of her life, who died, about 1640.

1. **A**NNE Lane was born of honest parents in Cole-Brook, in the county of Bucks, who was no sooner able to speak plain, and express any thing considerable of reason, but she began to act as if she were sanctified from the very womb.

2. She was very solicitous about her soul, what would become of it when she should die, and where she should live for ever, and what she should do to be saved, when she was about five years old. 3.

3. She was wont to be oft engaged in secret prayer, and pouring out her soul in such a manner, as is rarely to be heard of from one of her years.

4. I had occasion to lie at Colebrook, sent for her father, an old disciple, an Israelite indeed, and desired him to give me some account of his experiences, and how the Lord first wrought upon him ?

5. He gave me this answer, that he was a child of somewhat civil ; honest, and as to a man, harmless ; but he was little acquainted with the power of religion, till this sweet child put him upon a thorough inquiry into the state of souls, and would still be begging of him, and pleading with him to redeem his time, and to act with life and vigour in the things of God, which was no small demonstration to him of the reality

reality of invisibles, that a very babe and suckling should speak so feelingly about the things of God, and be so greatly concerned, not only about her own soul, but about her father's too, which was the occasion of his conversion, and the very thought of it was a quickening to him for thirty years, and he hopes never to wear off the impression of it from his spirit.

6. After this she (as I remember) put her father upon family duties, and if he were for any time out of his shop, she would ~~send him out~~ and with much ~~softness~~ sweetness and humility beg of him to come home, and to remember the preciousness of time, for which we must all give an account.

7. She was grieved if she saw any that conversed with her father, if they were unprofitable, unfavorable, or long in their discourse of common things.

8. Her own language was the language of Canaan ; how solidly, profitable, and spiritually would she talk ? so that she made good people take great delight in her company, and justly drew the admiration of all that knew her.

9. She could not endure the company of common children, nor play, but was quite above all those things which most children are taken with ; her business was to be reading, praying, discoursing about the things of God, and any kind of business that her age and strength was capable of ; idle she would not be by any means.

10. It was the greatest recreation to her to hear any good people talking about God, Christ, their souls, the scriptures, or any thing that concerned another life.

11. She had a strange contempt of the world, and scorned those things which most are too much pleased

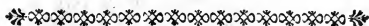
pleased with. She could not be brought to wear any laces, or any thing that she thought superfluous.

12. She would be complaining to her parents if she saw any thing in them that she judged would not be for the honour of religion, or suitable to that condition which the providence of God had set them in, in the world.

13. This child was the joy and delight of all the christians thereabouts; in those times, who was still quickening and raising of the spirits of those that talked with her. This poor babe was a great help to both father and mother, and her memory is sweet to this day.

14. She continued thus to walk as a stranger in the world, and one that was making haste to a better place. And after she had done a great

great deal of work for God and her own soul, and others too, she was called home to rest, and received into the arms of Jesus, before she was ten years old; she departed about 1640.



EXAMPLE X.

Of a child that was awakened when she was between seven and eight years old, with some account of her last hours, and triumphant death.

I. **T**ABITHA Alder was a daughter of a holy and reverend minister in Kent, who lived near Gravesend. She was much instructed in the holy scriptures and her catechism, by father and mother, but there appeared nothing extraordinary in her, till she was between seven and eight years old.

2. About this time, when she was sick, one asked her, what she thought would become of her if she should die? She answered, that she was greatly afraid she should go to hell.

3. Being asked, why she was afraid of going to hell? She answered, because she feared she did not love God.

4. Again, being asked, how she did know that she did not love God? She replied, what have I done for God ever since I was born? And besides this, I have been taught, that he that loves God keeps his commandments, but I have kept none of them at all.

5. Being further demanded if she would not fain love God? she answered, yes, with all her heart, if she could, but she found it a hard thing to love one she did not see.

6. She was advised to beg of God a heart to love him : she answered, she was afraid it was too late.

7. Being asked again, whether she was not sorry that she could not love God ? she answered, yes, but was still afraid it was too late.

8. Upon this, seeing her in such a desponding condition, a dear friend of hers spent the next day in fasting and prayer for her.

9. After this, that Christian friend asked her how she did now ? she answered with a great deal of joy, that now she blessed the Lord, she loved the Lord Jesus dearly, she felt she did love him. Oh, said she, I love him dearly.

10. Why said her friend, did you not say yesterday, that you did not love the Lord, and that you could not ? why did you mean to speak so strangely ? sure (said she) it was Satan that did
put

put it into my mind : But now I love him, O blessed be God for the Lord Jesus Christ.

11. After this, she had a discovery of her approaching dissolution, which was no small comfort to her : Anon (said she, with a holy triumph) I shall be with Jesus, I am married to him, and he hath given himself to me, and I shall live with him forever.

12. This strange language made the hearers even stand astonished ; But thus she continued for some little time, in a kind of extacy of joy, admiring the excellency of Christ, rejoicing in her interest in him, and longing to be with him.

13. After a while, some of her friends standing by her, observed a more than ordinary earnestness and fixedness in her countenance ; they said one to another, look how earnestly she looks, sure she seeth something.

14. One asked, what it was she fixed her eyes upon so eagerly ; I warrant (saith one that was by) she seeth death acoming.

15. No, (saith she) it is glory that I see, it is that I fix my eyes upon.

16. One asked her, what was glory like ? she answered, I cannot speak what, but I am going to it ; will you go with me ? I am going to glory, O that all you were to go with me to that glory ? With which words her soul took wing, and went to the possession of that glory which she had some believing sight of before.

17. She died when she was between eight and nine years old, about 1644.



E X A M P L E XI.

Of a child that was greatly affected with the things of God, when she was very young, with an exact account of her admirable carriage upon her death bed.

1. **SUSANNAH** Bicks was born at Leiden in Holland, Jan. 24, 1650, of very religious parents, whose great care was to instruct and chastise this their child, and to present her to the ministers of the place, to be publicly instructed and chastised.

2. It pleased the Lord to bless the holy education, and good example of her parents, and catechising, to the good of her soul, so that she soon had a true favour and relish of what she was taught,
and

and made an admirable use of it in a time of need, as you shall hear afterwards.

3. She was a child of great dutifulness to her parents, and of a sweet, humble, spiritual nature; and not only the truth, but the power and eminency of religion did shine in her so clearly, that she did not only comfort the hearts of her parents, but drew the admiration of all that were witnesses of God's works of love upon her, and may well be proposed as a pattern not only to children, but to persons of riper years.

4. She continued in a course of religious duties for some considerable time; so that her life was more excellent than most christians, but in her last sickness she excelled herself, and her deportment was so admirable, that partly through wonder and astonishment, and partly through sorrow,

many observable things were passed by without committing to paper, which deserved to have been written in letters of gold: But take these which follow, as some of the many which were taken from her dying lips, and first published by religious and judicious Christians in Dutch, afterwards translated into Scotch, and with a little alteration of the style, (for the benefit of English children) brought into this form by me.

5. In the month of August, 1664, when the pestilence raged so much in Holland, this sweet child was smitten, and soon as she felt herself very ill, she was said to break forth with abundance of sense and feeling, in these following words; If Thy law were not my delight, I should perish in my affliction.

6.

6. Her father coming to her to encourage her in her sickness, said to her, be of good comfort my child, for the Lord will be near to thee and us, under the heavy trial ; He will not forsake us though he chasten us. 'Yea, Father (said she) our heavenly father doth chasten us for our profit, that we may be partakers of his holiness : No chastisement seemeth for the present to be joyous but grievous, yet afterwards it yieldeth the peaceable fruits of righteousness to them which are exercised thereby. 'The Lord is now chastening of me upon this sick bed, but I hope he will bless it so to me, as to cause it to yield to me that blessed fruit, according to the riches of his mercies, which fail not.

7. After this, she spake to God with her eyes lifted up to heaven, saying, be merciful to me, O father,

ther, be merciful to me a sinner, according to thy word.

8. Then, looking upon her sorrowful parents, she said, it is said, cast thy burden upon the Lord, and he shall sustain thee, and he will never suffer the righteous to be moved. Therefore, my dear father and mother, cast all your care upon him, who causes all things to go well that do concern you.

9. Her mother said unto her, O my dear child, I have no small comfort from the Lord in thee, and the fruit of his grace, whereby thou hast been so much exercised unto Godliness in reading the word, in prayer and gracious discourse to the edification of thyself and us. The Lord himself who gave thee to us, make up this loss, if it be his pleasure to take thee away from us.

10. Dear mother, (said she) though I leave you, and you me, yet God will never leave us ; for it is said, can a woman forget her suckling child, that she should not have compassion on the fruit of her womb, yet will not I forget thee : Behold I have graven thee upon the palms of my hands. O comfortable words, both for mother and children ! Mark, dear mother, how fast the Lord keeps and holdeth his people, that he doth even grave them upon the palms of his hands. Though I must part with you, and you with me, yet blessed be God, he will never part either from you or me.

11. Being weary with much speaking, she desired to rest a while ; but after a little time awaking again, her father asked, how it was with her ? She made no direct answer, but asked what day it was ? her father said, it was

was the Lord's day? well then, said she, have you given up my name to be remembered in the publick prayers of the church? her father told her he had. I have learnt, said she, that the effectual fervent prayer of the righteous availeth much.

12. She had a very high esteem for the faithful ministers of Christ, and much desired their company where she was, but knowing the hazard that such a visit might expose them and the church too, she would by no means suffer that the ministers should come near her person; but chose rather to throw herself upon the arms of the Lord and to improve that knowledge she had in the world, and her former experience, and the visits of private christians, and those which the church had appointed in such cases, to visit and comfort the sick.

13. One of those which came to visit her, was of very great use to comfort her, and lift her up in some measure above the fear of death.

14. Though young, she was very much concerned for the interest of God and religion, for gospel ministers, and for the sins and the decay of the power of Godliness in her own country, which will further appear, by what may follow.

15. Her father coming into her found her in an extraordinary passion of weeping, and asked her what was the cause of her great sorrow : She answered, have I not cause to weep, when I heard that Domine de Wit was taken sick this day in his pulpit, & went home very ill ? Is not this a sad sign of God's displeasure to our country, when God smiteth such a faithful pastor.

16. She had a high valuation of God, and could speak in David's language, Whom have I in heaven but thee, and there is none on earth that I can desire in comparison of thee. She was much lifted above the fears of death; what else was the meaning of such expressions as these? O how do I long! even as the heart panteth after thee, O God, for God, the living God, when shall I come and appear before God.

17. She was a great hater of sin, and did with much grief and self-aborrence reflect upon it; but that which lay most upon her heart, was the corruption of her nature and original sin. How oft would she cry out in the words of the psalmist, behold, I was shapen in iniquity, and in sin did my mother conceive me: And I was altogether born in sin. She could never lay herself low enough under a sense of that original

original sin which she brought with her into the world.

18. She spake many things very judiciously of the old man, and putting it off, and of the new man, and putting that on; which shewed that she was no stranger to conversion, and that she in some measure understood that mortification, selfdenial, and taking up of her cross; and following Christ, meant. That scripture was much in her mouth, the sacrifices of God are a contrite spirit, O God, thou wilt not despise. That brokenness of heart (said she) which is built upon, and flows from faith, and that faith which is built upon Christ, who is the proper and alone sacrifice for sin. These are her own words.

19. Afterwards she desired to rest, and when she had slumbered awhile, she said, O dear father and mother, how weak do I feel

K myself!

myself ! my dear child ! (said her father) God will in his tender mercy strengthen thee in thy weakness. Yea, father (said she) that is my confidence : For it is said, the bruised reed he will not break, and the smoking flax he will not quench.

20. Then she discoursed excellently of the nature of faith, and desired that the eleventh of Hebrews should be read unto her ; at the reading of which she cried out, O what a stedfast holy faith was that of Abraham, which made him willing to offer up his own son ! faith is the substance of things hoped for, and the evidence of things not seen.

21. Her father and mother hearing her excellent discourse, and seeing her admirable carriage, burst out into abundance of tears : upon which she pleaded with them to be patient, and content with the hand of God. O (said she)

she) why do you weep at this rate over me, seeing I hope, you have no reason to question; but if the Lord take me out of this miserable world, it shall be well with me to all eternity. You ought to be well satisfied, seeing it is said, God is in heaven, and doth whatsoever pleaseth him : And do not you pray every day, that the will of God may be done upon earth, as it is in heaven ? Now, father, this is God's will that I should lie upon this sick bed, and of this disease ; shall we not be content when our prayers are answered ? would not your extreme sorrow be murmuring against God, without whose good pleasure nothing comes to pass. Altho' I am struck with this sad disease, yet because it is the will of God, that doth silence me, and I will as long as I live pray that God's will may be done, and not mine.

22. Seeing her parent still very
much

much moved, she further argued with them from the providence of God, which had a special hand in every common thing, much more in the disposal of the lives of men and women: Are not two sparrows sold for a farthing, and not one of them falls to the ground without our heavenly father? yea, the hairs of our head are all numbered: therefore fear not, you are of more value than many sparrows. Adversity and prosperity they are both good. Some things appear evil in our eyes, but the Lord turns all to the good of them which are his.

23. She came then to speak particularly concerning the plague Doth not (said she) the pestilence come from God? why else doth the scripture say, shall there be evil in the city which I have not sent? what do those people mean, which say, the pestilence comes from the air, and are not the elements

ments under his government? Or if they say, it comes from the earth, hath he not the same power and influence upon that too? why talk they of a ship that came from Africa; have we not read long ago together, out of Lev. 26. 25. I shall bring a sword upon you, and evenge the quarrel of my covenant; and when you are assembled in the cities, then will I bring the pestilence in the midst of you.

24. After this, having taken some little rest, she said, O now is the day for opening of the first question of the catechism, and if we were there, we should hear, that whether in death or life, a believer is Christ's who hath redeemed us by his own precious blood from the power of the devil: And then she quoted, Rom. 14. 7. 8. For none of us liveth unto himself, and none of us dieth unto himself. For whether

we live, we live unto the Lord, and whether we die, we die unto the Lord ; whether then we live or die, we are the Lord's. Then be comforted, for whether I live or die, I am the Lord's. O why do you afflict yourselves thus ! but what shall I say ? with weeping I came into the world, and with weeping I must go out again. O my dear parents, better is the day of my death, than the day of my birth.

25. When she had thus encouraged her father and mother, she desired her father to pray with her, and to request of the Lord that she might have a quiet and peaceable passage into another world.

26. After her father had prayed for her, he asked her, whether he should send for the physician ; she answered, by no means, for I am now beyond the help of doctors. But said he, my child, we
are

are to use the ordinary means appointed by the Lord for our help, as long as we live, and let the Lord do as seemeth good in his eyes. But, said she, give me the heavenly physician ; he is the only helper. Doth not he say, come unto me all ye that are weary and heavy laden, and I will give you rest : And doth not he bid us call upon him in the day of distress, and he will deliver us, and we shall glorify him : Therefore, dear father, call upon him yet again for me.

27. About this time a christian friend came in to visit her, who was not a little comforted when he heard and saw so much of the grace of God living in a poor young thing which could not but so far affect him as to draw tears of joy and admiration from him, and her deportment was so teaching, that he could not but acknowledge himself greatly edified

edified and improved by her carriage and language.

28. She spoke this with a dying voice, but full of spirit, and of the power of faith.

29. Her lively assurance she further uttered in the words of the Apostle, We know that if this earthly house of our tabernacle be dissolved, we have one which is built of God, which is eternal in the heavens; for in this, we sigh for our house which is in heaven, that we may be cloathed therewith.

30. There father, you see that my body is this tabernacle, which now shall be broken down: my soul shall now part from it, and shall be taken up into that heavenly paradise, into that heavenly Jerusalem. There shall I dwell and go no more out, but sit and sing. Holy, holy, holy, is the Lord God of Hosts, the Lord of Sabbath! Her last words were these:

these : O Lord God, into thy hands I commit my spirit, O Lord be gracious, be merciful to me a poor sinner.

And here she fell asleep.

39. She died the first of September, 1664, betwixt seven and eight in the evening ! in the fourteenth year of her age ; having obtained that which she so oft intreated of the Lord, a quiet and easy departure, and the end of her faith, the salvation of her soul.



EXAMPLE XII.

Of the excellent carriage of a child upon his deathbed, when but seven years old.

1. **J**ACOB Bicks, the brother of Susannah Bicks, was born in Leiden, in the year 1657 ; and had religious education, under his godly parents, the which the Lord was pleased to sanctify to his conversion, and by it lay in excellent

lent provisions to live upon in an hour of distress.

2. This sweet little child was visited of the Lord of a very fore sickness, upon the sixth of August 1664, three or four weeks before his sister, of whose life and death, we have given you some account already : In this distemper he was for the most part very sleepy and drowsy, till near his death, but when he did awake, he was wont still to fall a praying.

3. Once when his parents had pressed with him, they asked him if they should once more send for the physician ; no (said he) I will have the doctor no more ; the Lord will help me ; I know he will take me to himself, and then he shall help all.

4. Ah, my dear child, said his father, that grieveth my heart ; well, (said the child) father let us pray, and the Lord shall be near for my helper.

5. When

5. When his parents had prayed with him again, he said, come now my dear father and mother and kiss me, I know that I shall die.

6. Farewell dear father and mother. Farewell dear sister, farewell all. Now shall I go to heaven unto God and Jesus Christ, and the holy angels: Father, know you not what is said by Jeremiah; blessed is he who trusts in the Lord. Now I trust in him, and he will bless me. And in 1 Joh. 2. it is said, little children, love not the world, for the world passeth away.

7. Away then all that is in the world, away with all my pleasant things in the world: Away with my dagger, for where I go, there is nothing to do with daggers and swords: Men shall not fight there, but praise God. Away with all my books; there shall I know sufficiently, and be learned,

learned in all things of true wisdom, without books.

8. His father being touched to hear his child speak at this rate, could not well tell what to say ; but my dear child, the Lord will be near thee, and uphold thee.

9. Yea, father (said he) the apostle Peter saith, God resisteth the proud, but he giveth grace to the humble. I shall humble myself under the mighty hand of God, and he will help and lift me up.

10. O my dear child, said his father, hast thou so strong a faith ?

11. Yes, said the child, God hath given me so strong a faith upon himself through Jesus Christ, that the Devil himself shall flee from me, for it is said, he that believeth in the Son hath everlasting life, and he hath overcome the wicked one. Now I believe in Jesus Christ my redeemer, and
he

ne will not leave or forsake me, but shall give unto me eternal life, and then shall I sing, holy, holy, holy, is the Lord of Sabbath.

12. Then with a short word of prayer, Lord be merciful to me a poor sinner, he quietly breathed out his soul, and sweetly slept in Jesus, when he was about seven years old. He died August the 8th, 1664.



EXAMPLE XIII.

Of one who began to look towards heaven, when he was very young, with many eminent passages of his life, and his joyful death, when he was eleven years and three quarters old.

1. **J**OHAN Harvey was born in London, in the year 1654. His father was a Dutch merchant. He was piously educated under his virtuous mother; and soon began

to suck in divine things with no small delight.

2. The first thing very observable in him was, that when he was two years and eight months old, he could speak as well as other children do usually at five years old.

3. His parents judging that he was then a little too young to send out to school, let him have his liberty to play a little about their yard. But instead of playing, he found out a school of his own accord hard by home, and went to the school mistress, and intreated her to teach him to read, and so went for some time to school without the knowledge of his parents, and made a very strange progress in his learning, and was able to read distinctly, before most children are able to know their letters.

4. He was wont to ask many serious and weighty questions,
about

about matters which concerned his soul and eternity.

5. His mother being greatly troubled upon the death of one of his uncles, this child came to his mother, and said, "mother, though my uncle be dead, doth not the scripture say, he must rise again : Yea, and I must die, and so must every body ; and it will not be long before Christ will come to judge the world ; and then we shall see one another again, I pray mother do not weep so much." This grave counsel he gave his mother, when he was not quite five years old, by which her sorrow for her brother was turned into admiration at her child, and she was made to sit silent and quiet under that smarting stroke.

6. After this, his parents removed to Aberdeen in Scotland, and settled their children under an able and painful schoolmaster there.

there, whose custom was upon the Lord's day in the morning, to examine his scholars concerning the sermons that they had heard the former Lord's day, and to add some other questions which might try the understanding and knowledge of his scholars ; the question that was once proposed to his form was, whether God had a mother ? none of all the Scholars could answer it, till it came to John Harvy, who being asked whether God had a mother ? Answered, no, as he was God, he could not have a mother ; but as he was man he had. This was before he was quite six years old. His master was somewhat amazed at the child's answer, and took the first opportunity to go to his mother, to thank her for instructing her son so well ; but she replied, that he was never taught that from her, but that he understood it by reading, and his own observation.

7: He

7. He was a child that was extraordinary inquisitive, and full of good questions, and very careful to observe and remember what he heard.

8. He had a great hatred of whatsoever he knew to be displeasing to God, and was so greatly concerned for the honour of God, that he would take on bitterly if any gross sins were committed before him. And he had a deep sense of the worth of souls, and was not a little grieved when he saw any do that which he knew was dangerous to their souls.

9. One day seeing one of his near relations come into his father's house distempered with drink, as he thought, he quickly went very seriously to him, and wept over him, that he should so offend God, and hazard his Soul, and begged of him to spend his time better than in drinking and
L 2 gaming ;

gaming ; and this he did, without any instruction from his parents, but from an inward principle of grace, and love to God and souls, as it is verily believed.

10. When he was at play with other children, he would be oftentimes putting in some word to keep them from naughty talk or wicked actions ; and if any did take the Lord's name in vain, or do any thing that was not becoming of a child, they should soon hear of it with a witness ; nay, once hearing a boy speak very prophanely, and that after two or three admonitions, he would not forbear, nor go out of his company neither, he was so transported with zeal, that he could not forbear falling upon him to beat him, but his mother chiding him for it, he said, that he could not endure to hear the name of God so abused by a wretched boy.

This is observed not to vindicate

cate the act, but to take notice of his zeal.

11. He was a child that took great delight in the company of good men, and especially ministers and scholars ; and if he had any leisure time, he would improve it by visiting of such, whose discourse might make him wiser and better ; and when he was in their society, to be sure, his talk was more like a christian and scholar than a child.

12. One day after school time was over, he gave Mr. Andrew Kent (one of the ministers of Aberdeen) a visit, and asked him several solid questions, but the good man asked him some questions out of his catechism, and finding him not so ready in the answers as he should have been, did a little reprove him, and told him, that he must be sure to get his catechism perfectly by heart. : The child took the reproof very well, and

and went home, and fell very hot upon his catechism, and never left, till he had got it by heart ; and not only so, but he would be enquiring into the sense and meaning of it.

13. He was so greatly taken with his catechism, that he was not content to learn it himself, but he would be putting others upon learning their catechism, especially those that were nearest him ; he could not be satisfied, till he had persuaded his mother's maids to learn it ; and when they were at work, he would be still following them with some good question or other : so that the child seemed to be taken up with the thoughts of his soul, and God's honour, and the good of other souls.

14. He was a conscientious observer, of the Lord's day, spending all the time either in secret prayer, or reading the scriptures,
and

and good books ; learning the word of God, and publick duties ; and was not only careful in the performance of the duties himself, but was ready to put all that he knew upon a strict observation of the Lords day, and was exceedingly grieved at the prophanation of it. One Lord's day, a servant of his father's going out of the house upon extraordinary occasions, to fetch some beer, he took on so bitterly, that he could scarce be pacified because that holy day was so abused (as he judged) in his father's house.

15. When he was between six and seven years old ; it pleased God to afflict him with sore eyes, which was no small grief to him, because it kept him from school, which he loved as well as many boys do their play : and that which was worse, he was commanded by the doctor not to read any book whatsoever at home.—

But,

But, O how was this poor child grieved, that he might not have liberty to read the holy scriptures ; and for all their charge, he would get by himself, and stand by the window, and read the bible and good books ; yea, he was so greedy of reading the scriptures, and took so much delight in them, that he would scarce allow time to dress himself ; for reading the word of God was his great delight. Yea, though he had been beat for studying so much, yet judging it God's command, that he should give himself up to reading, he could not be beat off from it, till he was so bad, that he had like never to have recovered his sight more.

10. It was his practice to be much by himself in secret prayer, and he was careful to manage that work, so as that it might be as secret as possibly it could be, but his frequency and constancy made

made it to be easily observed ; upon which, a person having a great mind to know what this sweet babe prayed for, got into a place near him, and heard him very earnestly praying for the church of God, desiring that the kingdom of the gospel might be spread over the whole world, and that the kingdom of grace might more and more come into the hearts of God's people, and that the kingdom of glory might be hastened. He was wont to continue half an hour, sometimes an hour together upon his knees.

17. He was much above the vanities that most children are taken with, and was indeed too much a man to live long.

18. He was very humble and modest, and did by no means affect fineness in apparel, but hated any thing more than necessaries, either in cloaths or diet.

19. When he perceived either
his

his brother or sisters pleased with their new cloaths, he would with a great deal of gravity reprove their folly ; and when his reproof signified little, he would bewail their vanity.

20. Once he had a new suit brought from the taylors, which when he looked on, he found some ribbons at the knees, at which he was grieved ; asking his mother, whether those things would keep him warm ? No, child, said his mother ; why then (said he) do you suffer them to be put here ; you are mistaken, if you think such things please me ; and I doubt some that are better than us, may want the money that this cost you, to buy them bread.

21. His mother asked him, whether he was willing to die, and leave her ? He answered, Yes, I am willing to leave you, and go to my heavenly father. His mother

mother answered, Child, if thou hadst but an assurance of God's love, I should not be so much troubled.

22. He answered, and said to his mother, I am assured, dear mother, that my sins are forgiven, and that I shall go to heaven; for, said he, here stood an angel by me, that told me, I should quickly be in glory.

23. At this his mother burst forth into tears. O, mother, said he, did you but know what joy I feel, you would not weep, but rejoice. I tell you I am so full of comfort, that I can not tell you how I am; O mother, I shall presently have my head in my father's bosom, and shall be there, where the four and twenty elders shall cast down their crowns, and sing hallelujah, glory and praise, to him that sits upon the throne, and unto the lamb forever.

24.

24. Upon this, his speech began to fail him, but his soul seemed still to be taken up with glory, and nothing now grieved him but the sorrow that he saw his mother to be in for his death ; a little to divert his mother, he asked her, what she had for supper but presently in a kind of divine rapture, he cried out, O what sweet supper have I making ready for me in glory !

25. But seeing this rather increase, than allay his mother's grief, he was more troubled, and asked her what she meant, thus to offend God ; know you not, that it is the hand of the almighty. Humble yourself under the mighty hand of God. Lay yourself in the dust, and kiss the rod of God, and let me see you do it, in token of your submission to the will of God, and bow before him. Upon which, raising himself a little,

tle, he gave a lowly bow, and spoke no more, but went cheerfully and triumphingly to rest, in the bosom of Jesus.



A narrative of sundry remarkable passages concerning Mr. John Langham, son of Sir James Langham, knight and baronet.

By THOMAS BURROUGHS, B. D.

THIS sweet child was five years and an half old within two or three days; when God took him: But he had arrived to that in five years, and a little more, that some (I am afraid) have not arrived to in ten times the space. *

He

* He died July 29, 1659.

He had learnt the assemblies shorter catechism through, and began to learn it over again, with the proofs out of the scriptures at large, wherein he had made some progress.

He met one day (in a gentleman's chamber, who lives in the house) with a book that treated of the passion of Christ, and reading a little in it, said he liked the book well, and that he would read it over. So he began and read some few pages, then turned the leaf down, and the next day came again and began where he left, and so from day to day, till he had read a considerable part of it.

He was a very dutiful child to his parents, and would exceedingly rejoice, when he had done any thing, or carried himself so, as to please them,

He

He was taken with the book called, the practice of piety, and delighted to be reading in it.

His father speaking to him one day about the devil and hell, and things of that nature, asked him, If he were not afraid to be alone? he answered, no : For God would defend him. His father asked, why he thought so? he replied, that he loved God, and that he hoped that God loved him. But (saith his father) you have been a sinner, and God loves not sinners. But I am sorry for my sins (saith he) and do repent. Repent (replied his father) do you know what repentance means, and what belongs to it? And he gave him a good account of the apprehension he had of the nature of that grace, according to what he had learned in his catechism, but yet in his own words and expressions.

He

He would oft ask his sister (who was somewhat younger than himself) whether she trusted in God, and loved God? and would tell her, that, If she sought God, God would be found of her; but if she forsook God, God would cast her off forever.

He took that delight in his book, that his father and mother have seen cause sometimes to hide away his book from him.

He was never observed to discover any pouting or discontent, when upon any occasion he was corrected. And you must not think I am telling you the Story of one, in whom Adam (as they feign of bonaventure) never sinned. There is that foolishness bound up in all children's hearts, that will sometimes need the rod of correction; though there be very few in whom there appeared less than in him.

The

The day before he died, he desired me to pray for him : I told him, If he would have me to pray for him, he must tell me, what I should pray for ; and what he would have God to do for him ! he answered, to pardon his sins.

Oft upon his sick bed he would be repeating to himself the 55th chapter of Isaiah, and other pieces of scripture, which in the time of his health he had learned by heart.

But that passage in the forementioned chapter was most frequently in his mouth, and uttered by him with much affection : My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways, saith the Lord : For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways and my thoughts than your thoughts : As if God (out of this sweet babe's mouth) had, in these words, read to his
 parents.

parents lectures of silence and submission under his hand ; and taught them that he must be dealt with and disposed of, not as they, but as his heavenly father (whose thoughts were far different) should see fitting.

One time he broke out into this expression ; my God, my God, deliver me out of this misery, and from the pains of hell forever.

A little before his death he broke out into these words ; My sins pardon, my soul save, for Christ his sake.

I cannot blame those worthy persons so nearly related to him, though they mourn at parting with such a sweet and hopeful child ; any more than I could blame them for feeling pain, if one of their limbs were torn from another. Only they must not mourn to despondency.

What

What an instrument of God's glory might he have proved ? What a deal of service might he have done for God (in all likelihood) had he lived to old Age ? But it was God's doing.

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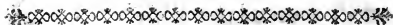


IF the children of Newengland
with an early piety, set them-
selves to know and serve the Lord
Jesus Christ, the God of their
fathers, they will be condemned,
not only by the examples of pious
children in other parts of the
world, the published and printed
accounts whereof have been
brought over hither ; but there
have been exemplary children in
the midst of Newengland itself,
that

that will rise up against them for their condemnation. It would be a very profitable thing to our children, and highly acceptable to all the godly parents of the children, if, in imitation of the excellent Janeway's token for children, there were made a true collection of notable things, exemplified in the lives and deaths of many among us, whose childhood hath been signalized for what is virtuous and laudable.

In the church history of New-england is to be found the lives of many eminent persons, among whose eminencies, not the least was, their fearing of the Lord from their youth, and their being loved by the lord when they were children.

But among the many other instances, of a childhood and youth delivered from vanity by serious religion, which Newengland has afforded, these few have particularly been preserved. **EXAMPLE**



E X A M P L E I.

LITTLE more than thirteen was John Clap of Scituate, when he died ; but it might very truly be said of him, that while he was yet young, he began to seek after the God of his father. From his infancy he discovered a singular delight in the holy scriptures, whereby he was made wise unto salvation ; and also made himself yet further amiable by his obedience to his parents, and his courtesy to all his neighbours. As he grew up, he signalized his concern for eternity, not only by his diligent attendance upon both publick and private catechism, but also by the like attendance on the ministry of the word, which he would ponder and apply, and confer about with much discre-

L tion

tion of soul, and pray for the good effect thereof upon his own soul. Yea, 'twas even from his childhood observable in him, that ever after he began to speak reasonably, he would both affectionately regard the family prayers, and likewise, both morning and evening, with a most unwearied constancy recommend himself by his own prayers unto the mercies of God.

Arriving higher into his age, he was very conscientious of his duty both to God and man ; and particularly careful of his father's business, which now became his own calling. At work with his father in the field, he would frequently be propounding of questions, by the answers of which he might be promoted in the knowledge of God ; and at the seasons which others usually employ to vain purposes, he would be abounding in the exercises of devotion.

votion. But of all the imitative things to be seen in him, he was exemplary for nothing more than his endeavours in preparation for, and sanctification of, the Lord's day. Yea, his parents have affirmed, that for a year or two before he died, they never heard an unprofitable word come out of his mouth ; but he would often bewail the idle discourses of others.

About a year and an half before he died, the good spirit of God blessed him, with yet a more thorough conviction of his misery by reason of sin both original and actual : Whence, though he had been such a pattern of innocence, yet he would aggravate his own sinfulness, with lamentations truly extraordinary, and for his relief against the terrors of God, wherewith he was now distracted, he was brought unto an utter despair of his own righteousness and abilities ;

abilities ; but in this condition, he came to adore the grace of God offering a Jesus who is able to save unto the uttermost : In his longings to enjoy the love of God, through Jesus, he was like the hart after water brooks !

The wounds of his spirit were accompanied with a languishing and consuming of his flesh ; yet with great patience he endured the hand of God, and he followed the Lord with prayers, with cries, with tears for the manifestation of the divine love unto him.

It was also observed & admired, that when he was abroad at the public worship, in the time of his weakness, he would stand the whole time of the long exercise, and be so affectionately attentive, that one might see every sentence uttered in those exercises, make some impression upon him. The best christians in the place professed themselves made ashamed by

by the fervency of this young disciple ! And in days of humiliation or thanksgivings, kept with regard unto the general circumstances of the country, he would bear his part, with such a sense of the publick troubles or mercies, as argued more than a common measure of a public spirit in him.

The minister of the place, visiting of him, after sickness had confined him, found him in extreme dejection of soul ; his very body shook, thro' his fear, lest the day of grace were over with him ; yet justifying of God, tho' he should be forever cast among the damned. But yet his fears were accompanied with hopes in the all sufficient merits of the blessed Jesus : in which hopes he continued using all the means of grace according to his capacity, and lamenting after those whereof he was not capable.

He continued six days with his

teeth so shut, as that they could not be opened ; and for the first three days and nights, he took no sustenance ; afterwards, though this but seldom, he sucked in between his teeth, nothing but a little cold water : In which time, they that laid their ears to his lips, could overhear him continually expressing his comfort in God. But just before his death, his teeth were opened ; when he would often say, O ! how precious is the blood of Christ, it is worth more than a thousand worlds ! and often pray, come Lord Jesus, come quickly ! And at last, he gave up himself to God, in these words, Lord Jesus receive my spirit. He desired his mother to turn his face unto the wall ; whereupon she said, John, dost thou now remember Hezekiah's turning his face unto the wall ? he said, yes, I do remember it : And as she turned him in her arms he quietly breath-

ed

ed his soul into the arms of his blessed Saviour.

[Extracted out of the account written and printed by Mr. With-eril and Mr. Baker, ministers of Scituate ; and prefaced by Mr. Urian Oakes ; who takes that occasion to say of this John Clap, he was a young old man, full of grace, though not full of days.]



EXAMPLE II.

MR. Thomas Thornton, the aged and faithful Pastor of Yarmouth, was blessed with a daughter named Priscilla, who at the age of eleven, left this world, having first given demonstrations of an exemplary piety.

She was one remarkably grave, devout, serious ; very inquisitive about matters of eternity ; and in her particular calling very diligent. She

She was nevertheless troubled with fore temptation and exercises about the state of her own soul : The anguish of her spirit, about her body of death, caused her to pour out many tears and prayers ; and she pressed, that some other pious children of her acquaintance, might with her keep a day of humiliation together, that (as she expressed it) they might get power against their sinful natures.

But it pleased God at length to bless the words of her godly mother, for the quieting of her mind. It was her singular happiness, that she had such godly parents ; but it was her opinion and expression, we trust too much to the prayers of our parents, whereas we should pray for ourselves.

At last, she fell mortally sick. In the beginning of her sickness she was afraid of dying ; for, said she, I know of no promise to encourage

courage me. She could not but own that she had in some measure walked with God ; yet she complained, that she had not found God meeting her in her prayers, and making her heart willing to be at his disposal ; and that the pride of her heart now lay as a load upon it. She owned, that she had many thoughts of Jesus Christ, and that it grieved her that she had sinned against him, who had done and died for her.

But many days were not past, before she could profess herself willing to die, with some assurance of her then going to eternal blessedness. Many thanks and loves did she now render to one of her superiors, declaring, it was because they had curbed her, and restrained her from sinful vanities, And she said, were I now to choose my company, it should be among the people of God ; I see plainly
that

that they are the only company. She was not without her conflicts in this time, wherein one of her speeches was, damnation, that is the worst thing of all, but Christ is of all the best : I find it so ; Christ is to me wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption. She told her father she knew she was made up of all manner of sin ; but said she, I hope God has humbled me, and pardoned me in the merits of the Lord Jesus Christ. Unto her affectionate mother she said, mother, why do you weep, when I am well in my soul ? will you mourn, when I am so full of joy ? I pray rejoice with me.

When she was extremely spent, she said unto her parent, O my father, I have been much troubled by Satan, but I find Christ is too hard for him, and sin, and all. She now said, I know now that I shall

shall die ; and being asked, whether she were afraid of death ; with a sweet smile she replied, No not I, Christ is better than life. And so she continued in a most joyful frame, till she died : a little before which, it being the Lord's day, she asked, what time of the day it was ? and when they had told her, 'twas three of the clock, she replied, what is the Sabbath almost done ? Well, my eternal Sabbath is going to begin wherein I shall enjoy all felicity, and sing hallelujahs to all eternity. And hereupon she quickly fell asleep in the Lord.

EXAMPLE III.

MR. Nathaniel Mather, died October 17, 1688, at the age of nineteen, an instance of more than common learning and virtue. On his grave stone at Salem,

Salem, there are these words deservedly inscribed, *The ashes of an hard student, a good scholar, and a great christian,*

He was one, who used an extraordinary diligence to obtain skill in the several arts that make an accomplished scholar ; but he was more diligent in his endeavours to become an experienced christian.

He did with much solemnity enter into covenant with God, when he was about fourteen years old. And afterwards he renewed that solemn action, in such form as this : “ I do renounce all the vanities and wretched idols and evil courses of the world.

“ I do choose, and will ever have, the great God, for my best good, my last end, my only Lord. He shall be the only one, in the glorifying and enjoying of whom

whom shall be my welfare ; and in the serving of whom shall be my work.

“ I will ever be rendering unto the Lord Jesus Christ, my proper acknowledgments, as unto my priest, my prophet, and my king, and the physician of my soul. I will ever be studying what is my duty in these things, and wherein I find myself to fall short, I will ever count it my grief and shame ; and betake myself to the blood of the everlasting covenant.

“ Now humbly imploring the grace of the mediator to be sufficient for me, I do as a further solemnity, hereunto subscribe my name with both heart and hand.”

Having done this, he did for the rest of his life walk with watchfulness and exactness.

He would keep whole days of prayer and praise by himself : And he would set himself to con-

M

sider

sider much on that question—
What shall I do for God?

He was much in meditation, and often wrote the chief heads of his meditation. He would read the scripture, with a note and a wish fetched out of every verse: And at night, he would ask,

1. What has God's mercy to me been this day?

2. What has my carriage to God been this day?

3. If I die this night, is my immortal spirit safe?

Many more such imitable things are in the history of his life (divers times printed at London) reported of him.



EXAMPLE IV.

ANN Greenough, the daughter of Mr. William Greenough, left the world, when she
was

was but about five years old, and yet gave astonishing discoveries of a regard unto God and Christ, and her own soul, before she went away. When she heard any thing about the Lord Jesus Christ, she would be strangely transported, and ravished in her spirit at it; and had an unspeakable delight in catechising. She would put strange questions about eternal things, and make answers herself that were extremely pertinent. Once, particularly, she asked, are not we dead in sin? and presently added, but I will take this away, the Lord Jesus Christ shall make me alive. She was very frequent and constant in secret prayer, and could not with any patience be interrupted in it. She told her gracious mother, that she there prayed for her! and was covetous of being with her mother, when she imagined such duties to be going

going forward. When she fell sick at last of a consumption, she would not by any sports be diverted from the thoughts of death, wherein she took such pleasure, that she did not care to hear of any thing else. And if she were asked, whether she were willing to die? she would carefully reply, ah, by all means, that I may go to the Lord Jesus Christ.



EXAMPLE V.

AT Boston, 12d. 3m, 1694, there died one Daniel Williams, in the 18th year of his age.

There was a collection made of some of his dying speeches.

Being asked, whether he loved God? he replied, Yes, I love him dearly; for Lord, whom have I in Heaven but thee?

He

He was much concerned for poor perishing souls. He would say, Oh, that I had but strength, how would I pray and sigh, and cry to God, for the poor world, that lives in sin and pride !

On the day of his death, being full of pain, he said, Jesus Christ bore more than this, and he died for me ; and shall I be afraid to die, and go to him ?

Then said he, O death, where is thy sting ? O grave, where is thy victory ?



EXAMPLE VI.

Early piety exemplified in Elizabeth Butcher. SECTION I.

Containing a brief account of her, from her birth in July 1709, to her first remarkable illness in September, 1716.

ELIZABETH Butcher, daughter of Alvin and Elizabeth Butcher of Boston, was

born July 14th, 1709. Her parents gave her up to God from the womb, and as soon as she was capable of speaking, they began to instruct her in the things of God.

2. When she was about two years and an half old; as she lay in her cradle, she would ask herself that question, what is my corrupt nature? and would make answer again to herself, it is empty of grace, bent upon sin, and only to sin, and that continually. She took great delight in learning her catechism, and would not willingly go to bed without saying some part of it.

3. She being a weakly child, her mother carried her into the country for health: And when she was about three years old, and at meeting, she would set with her eyes fixed on the minister, to the admiration of all that sat about

bout her, who said that grown up people might learn and take example of her. She took great delight in reading, and was ready and willing to receive instruction.

4. But nothing more extraordinary as we remember appeared in her, till she came to be about six years old. Then she began to enquire concerning God, and the nature and affairs of her soul, and she said, she was afraid she had not lived up to that end for which she was made. She was asked what was the end she was made for? The child answered—to glorify God: But I am afraid I have not lived to the glory of God as I should have done. She was told that she must pray to God that he would please to pardon her sins, and give her grace to serve and glorify him.

5. She was not contented with the

the bare reading of God's word, but would frequently ask the meaning of it. And when she was at her work, she would often ask where such and such places of scripture were, and would mention the words that she might be directed to find them.

6. It was her practice to carry her catechism or some other good book to bed with her, and in the morning she would be sitting up in her bed, reading before any of the family were awake besides her.

7. One day as she was sitting by the fire, asked—Why our first parents eating the forbidden fruit was counted sin to them? At another time she asked, who were meant by the wise and foolish virgins? And what was meant by the oil in the lamps? As she was reading a sermon of Dr. Cotton Mather's she asked who was
meant

meant by the goodly cedar? And when she was told, she said,—and who are meant by the fowls that are just pledged? she was told they meant little children; and Christ called them to come to him. But, said she, how can I who am but a child go to Christ? being informed, she said,—But will Christ accept of me? she was answered yes, and several places of scripture were mentioned for her encouragement.



SECTION II.

*Containing a short account of her
in her first illness from Sept.
1716. to Feb. 1717-18.*

1. **I**N September 1716, she was taken ill, and in her sickness behaved herself with such wonderful patience as all that came

came near admired. She would often put up that request, heavenly father, give me thy Christ, give me thy grace, and pardon all my sins, for Jesus Christ's sake, Amen. Then she said, what is sanctification? and made answer to herself; it is the work of God's free grace. What are the benefits which in this life do accompany or flow from justification, adoption and sanctification? they are assurance of God's love, peace of conscience, joy in the holy ghost, increase of grace, and perseverance therein to the end.

2. Being asked, if she was willing to die, and go to Christ; she said, yes: But child you send for Mr. Sewall to talk with him, and hear what he had to say to her? the child answered, Mr. Sewall may give me encouragement as you do. But except God speaks to me too, all will signify nothing.

Well

Well child, said her mother, wait upon God still, who will in his own time I hope speak peace to my soul. Mr. Sewall was sent for, but he was not at home.

8. She was told for her encouragement, that she was a lamb of Christ's flock ; and that he had said, he would take the lambs in his arms, and carry them in his bosom ; and suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not, for of such is the kingdom of heaven ; and you know that promise in Prov. 8. 17. I love them that love me, and those that seek me early shall find me. The child answered ; if the Lord will please to help me, I will seek him. She was told that the Lord would help her, and was exhorted to trust in the free grace and mercy of God through Christ. Oh said the child : I am willing to accept of Christ, but I am afraid Christ
is

is not willing : Answer was made that if she was willing to accept of Christ, that to be sure Christ was willing to accept of her : She answered, I am willing.

9. Awhile after she said ; I will venture my soul upon Christ, and if I perish, Lord, it shall be at the fountain of thy mercy : For thou hast promised, that whosoever cometh unto thee, thou wilt in no wise cast out ; O Lord, I desire as I am able, to come unto thee, to come unto thee, and I am sure thou wilt not cast me off. And she was composed for some time : But satan assaulted her again in sitting her sins before her ; and she cried out, Oh the sin of my nature, (unless my soul be sprinkled with the blood of Christ,) is enough to undo me, were I guilty of no other.

10. About a month before her death, on the Sabbath in the afternoon

noon, she said to her mother, now I have a believing sight of Christ : now Christ is mine, and I am his : Oh, how sweet is Christ : Oh he is sweet, he is sweet ! and if you did but taste and feel what I do, you would long to be gone. Then she said ; come Lord Jesus, come quickly ; Dear Jesus, sweet Jesus, come quickly, then she said : Lord Jesus give me patience, give me patience to wait thy time, for thy time is the best time : Lord Jesus give me patience.

11. Her mother sat weeping by her, and to comfort her, the child said, dear mother, though we part now, it will be but a little while before you will follow and come to me : And that will be a happy meeting for us, to meet at the right hand of Christ in the great day. Then she thanked her mother for the instructions and corrections she had given her,
 N. and.

and said, had it not been for them I might have gone to hell ; but it won't be long now before the blessed angels will come and carry my soul to the bosom of Christ ; Oh I long to be gone to that blessed place : sweet Lord Jesus, come quickly.

12. A while after she said my pain is great which I undergo to go to Christ ; but not so great as the pains Christ underwent for me ; Oh I wonder, that Christ should be so willing to die for me, who am so great a sinner.

13. Mr. Sewall was sent for again ; but before he came the child was so spent with extreme pain and much speaking, that she was not able to say any thing to him. In the night she asked the young woman that watched with her, to read the 25th of Matthew to her.

14. One morning she asked ;
where

where is that place of scripture ? eat O friends, drink, yea drink abundantly, O beloved. The glass standing on the table, she asked to have it turned, and said ; my glass is almost run, my work is almost ended.

15. On Thursday was three weeks before her death, her mother seeing an alteration in her, said, my child is struck with death. Upon which she replied, Is death come, and am I prepared, am I prepared ? She lay still some time, and then said, O death where is thy sting : O grave where is thy victory, and what wilt thou gain by this thing ?

16. There was a person she had a peculiar respect for, and desired her mother when she had opportunity, to speak to her ; for she was afraid she did not consider her soul and eternity.

17. The Lord's day following she said over the 23d Psalm, and when she had concluded it, her mother asked her ; if she was not afraid to pass through the dark valley of the shadow of death ? she answered ; no, for God hath promised that he will never leave me nor forsake me, neither will he suffer me to leave or forsake him.

18. She lying in great pain day and night, would often say, Lord Jesus give me patience, that I may not dishonour God. She said, Oh if I should be deceived at last, and deceive others, and they think I am good, O how miserable shall I be forever?

19. Her aunt Stone being present, and the child being in great pain, and complaining of those about her, for refusing to do something for her, which she found relieved her, but they were fearful
of

of overdoing, she said,—They do not pity me, but I hope Christ pities me, and will prepare a place for me. A little while after, being restless with her pains, she checked herself, saying,—Why do I complain? Christ endured more than this for me: I wonder how he did to bear it. And a little while after, hearing it thunder; she said, It thunders, I am afraid God will kill me with it; but whether he kills me with that, or with this pain, if I may but go to Christ, it will be well.

20. The Tuesday following Mr. Sewall came to see her, and after some discourse, he asked her on what she depended for salvation? she replied, on Christ, and the promises. He said, well Child, hold fast thy faith, and still trust in Christ. Then she said, Oh I long to go to that blessed place. He asked her what

N 2 blessed

bleſſed place ? ſhe not readily anſwering, he ſaid, do you mean heaven ? ſhe answered, yes : And when he was going away, deſired him to remember her in his Prayers : And aſked him when we would come again to ſee her ?

21. Two perſons being in the room, they ſaid to one another ; this child has been a child of affliction all its days. The child replied ; and it is for my good.

22. She had another combat with Satan, and ſaid, he would perſuade her that Chriſt was withdrawn from her ; and ſhe cried out, Oh what ſhall I do, Oh what ſhall I do ? I am undone ! ſhe ſaid, O Lord, caſt me not out of thy ſight : caſt me not away from thy preſence, and take not thy holy ſpirit from me : Reſtore unto me the joy of thy ſalvation, and uphold me with thy free ſpirit ; never leave me nor forſake me :

me : But guide me by thy Coun-
 fel while here, and afterwards re-
 ceive me to thine heavenly king-
 dom : And this I ask for thy son
 Jesus Christ's sake ; and in testi-
 mony of my desires and assurance
 to be heard, I say, Amen.

23. She was comforted again
 in the night : And the watcher
 sitting by her bedside, about mid-
 night, heard her say,

Yonder, Yonder, up above,
 Sits my saviour, cloath'd in love,
 And there's my smiling God.

24. She said, she had something
 to say to Mr. Sewall the next time
 he should come to see her : and
 being asked what it was, she said,
 she would thank him for the ma-
 ny prayers he put up for her, for
 God had heard and answered
 them.

25. At another time she said
 concerning Christ ; why is his
 chariot so long a coming ? Why
 stay

stay so long the wheels of his chariot? for me to stay is pain; but to die is gain.

26. Mr. Prince coming to see her the Monday before her death, she desired him to pray with her. He said, well, and what shall we pray for now? she replied, that I may have a saving knowledge of Christ, that God would please to pardon all my sins, and prepare me for death my great and last change.

27. The day following, her pains abated, and she seemed to be better for 2 or 3 days; and no one perceived her to draw near her change, till a few minutes before she was taken speechless, the child said, something choked her: Her mother felt of her hands, and finding them in a cold sweat, and her countenance alter, she said, my child is agoing: Ah mother, said the child, so must you

you as well as I. She said something more ; but her speech and spirits failing, we could not understand her.

She breathed her soul into the arms of Christ on Friday, the 13th of June, 1718, being eight years and just eleven months old.



EXAMPLE X.

MR. Abiel Goodwin, who died at Boston, October 3, 1727, in the 20th year of her Age. — Her father died a very young man, but in so uncommon and victorious a manner, that an account is already published of it in Dr. Cotton Mather's *Cælestinus*. She was born after the death of her father, and for that cause the name of Abiel (or, God my father) was given her.

This

This young person was one, who began betimes to take the yoke of her Saviour upon her ; yea, so much betimes, and with such gracious dawns of piety, that she knew not the time of her first coming into the life of God. And God forbid, that we should rashly pass the doom of the unregenerate on all who are, and yery many of the newborn, we hope, are so circumstanced.

Under the influences of a pious education, she was from her childhood used unto the religion of the closet ; and afraid of doing any thing that the light of God in her young soul allowed not : And courteous, affable and full of benignity, ready to do good offices for all about her : Accompanied and advantaged with a discretion which was an agreeable varnish upon all.

Her

Her attendance on the means of grace was very diligent: Wherein among the rest, she constantly attended the weekly lectures; and lamented the scandal of it, that those precious opportunities were so shamefully neglected in a city, where a worldly mind so evidently governed the inhabitants.

Her illness began upon her, when she was little more than sixteen years of age, and she was confined unto the house for two years before she died. Hereby she was prevented from the execution of a purpose, that her young heart was earnestly set upon. Which was to have approached the holy table in the way of the gospel and of our churches, and have made her claim to the sacrifice of her saviour, and set her seal to the covenant of salvation, according to his instruction there. She greatly lamented it, that tho' she

she were so very young she had not publicly done what she had proposed, of giving herself up unto the Lord among his people ! but she said, I have done it secretly a thousand times ; and the Lord hath accepted my willing mind : and what fault there might be in my delay, he has assured me, that he has pardoned it. But how earnestly did she urge upon her young friends, the serious and speedy discharge of their plain duty to do this ; the omission whereof does forever, where the conscience is not seared, make an uneasy death bed.

At length she became confined unto the bed, for eighteen weeks together, at her entrance whereof she exposed a strong belief, that she should find extraordinary supports provided for her. And she found them ; found them to astonishment.

She.

She was now fallen into an hydropfical condition. In this time, though many wearifome nights were appointed for her, yet ſhe poſſeſſed not months of vanity. But ſhe did good all the while, and brought much of the fruit, by which her heavenly father has been and will be glorified.

In this time, as it ſometimes is with ſouls that are getting looſe from fleſh, and gotten very far on towards the inviſible world, ſhe had ſome unaccountable impreſſions upon her mind, relating to things not commonly coming under human cognizance. There were ſurprizing inſtances, not ſo proper to be now and here ſpoken of. But there is one I would ſpeak of, becauſe it may be a little ſubſervient unto the main deſign which I am now to proſecute.

In her inclination of it upon young people, that they would
immediately

immediately come under the yoke of their saviour, and so be prepared for a death, which they knew not how suddenly it might overtake them : She said. mind what I say ; you shall see sudden deaths, quickly multiplied among you ; and young as well as old shall be reached with them. It was not long, but a very few weeks after this prediction, before she was able to observe ; well, there have been 14 sudden deaths, which you have seen dispensed since my speaking to you, but I am to tell you, there will be many more than these.

But from this, I cannot but go on, to take notice of the prospect that her saviour gave her of the heaven, that she now saw open to receive her ; and the heavenly peace and joy, which the bright prospect filled her withal.

It was unspeakably edifyng unto us, to see so young a person,
one

one of nineteen, so rejoicing in hope of the glory of God : Yea, rejoicing with a joy unspeakable and full of glory.

In this time, when one, to treat her with a term suiting her ingenuity, told her, that considering the nature of her malady, her condition might be called, a going to heaven by water : And that anon she would be able to sing unto her saviour, that song of the redeemed ; He sent from above, he took me, he drew me out of many waters. Her answer was, water, yea, and if I should go to heaven by fire too, I am sure, heaven would compensate for all the trouble of it. O lovely, lovely, lovely, to be there : How do I long to be there. Then she would break out, O that I had the wings of a dove ; then would I fly away unto him and be at rest. And again, O why is his chariot so long

long acoming? Why tarry the wheels of his chariot? but she corrected it, I will wait, for he that will come, shall come, and will not tarry.

And, O what shall I find in mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem.

She said, upon her being asked her choice in the matter of dying; I had rather die, were it the will of God, if it were for nothing but this; if I live I shall sin: You know now tis natural to sin; and I had rather die than sin. But if it be the will of God that I should live, I am willing to live and suffer any thing that he shall please to order for me. "Twil be nothing to what my saviour suffered for me the chief of sinners.

She often fell into fits, was attended with an extremity of pains: But at her first coming out of them, her first words were usually

ally such as one might have expected from one that had been caught up to Paradise. They were, hal-lelujah ; Oh ! salvation to our God, who sitteth on the throne, and unto the lamb. O blessing and glory and honour be unto our God for ever and ever ! —She said, O welcome fits, O welcome pains, O welcome any thing that will bring me nearer to Christ ! she said, well, the more I bear, the more I love ! the more I suffer from the wise and good hand of my saviour, the more I love him.

Once a temptation assaulted her, that a devil would make a prey of her departing soul. But she soon answered it, and vanquished it, and said, No, No, my Saviour will not let Satan pluck me out of his powerful and merciful hand.

Satan,

Satan, when my hour comes, my flight will be too nimble for thee.

But I must now own ; That though her hope in her death, was what appeared very amiable to me and very delectable, yet there was one thing that appeared much more so ; and this was, her being willing to live.

Though she so wished for death and had such assurance that the hour of her death would be the best hour that ever she saw ; and though the distemper which cruciated her, had very much dolour and anguish in it, and as by her expiration, she was assured of the Lord sending to take her and draw her out of deadly waters : Yet with a most profound submission, she was willing to wait God's time for the deliverance. A little before she died, being asked, whether her comfort continued ? She said yes, Oh, more than ever.

ever. But I am so weak that I cannot express the joy I feel. I long more than ever to be gone. You may now look for my death every minute. Some of her last words were, I have now finished the work that my God has ordered for me. So she kept waiting for the mercy stroke which anon released her.

FINIS.



